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Doctors win big as Supreme Court decides not to hear government appeal.
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Mayoral candidates answer survey on sex policies.
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SF Opera's lively take on Rossini's 'Barber of Seville.'
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BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Lesbian couple likely committed suicide, cops say

by Ed Walsh

Police in Monterey County believe the deaths of a Long Beach lesbian couple found in an exclusive seaside resort were the result of a ritualistic suicide pact.

Jacqueline Toves, 26, and her girlfriend, Abigail Tapia, 27, were found dead last Friday, October 10, in their rustic cottage at the Gorda Springs Inn in Big Sur, about 135 miles south of San Jose. The women were found by a hotel employee in the suite's queen-sized bed. They were bound with tape and rope, and garbage bags were fastened tightly over their heads. Toves was wearing a grinning multi-colored mask and a feathered mask was found near the bed.

Monterey County Sheriff-Coroner-Public Administrator Mike Kanalakis told reporters who had gathered outside his office on Monday, October 13, that the evidence points to double suicide.

"Based on information gathered at the scene, including letters written by both women to family members, the sheriff's office is investigating this as a suicide pact but further investigations will be conducted," Kanalakis announced.

Toxicology reports will determine the cause of the deaths, county officials said.

The women checked into the hotel a week before they were found dead and requested no maid service. According to bankruptcy records cited by the *Los Angeles Times*, Toves owed more than \$57,000 in credit card bills and \$6,000 in medical bills.

Toves's father, Guam resident Francis Toves, told the *San Jose Mercury News* that his daughter attempted suicide two years ago but he thought she was happy now in her relationship with Tapia. But Toves later told the *Pacific Daily News* in Guam that he didn't think his daughter committed suicide and that the incident two years ago was an accidental overdose because of stress and was not a suicide attempt.

The executive director of San Francisco Suicide Prevention, Eve Meyer, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that suicide pacts are rare and are most commonly seen in teenagers. Meyer said suicide pact victims often share a feeling that no one understands them, or they may feel that they've been shut out, marginalized, or excluded out of society. ▼

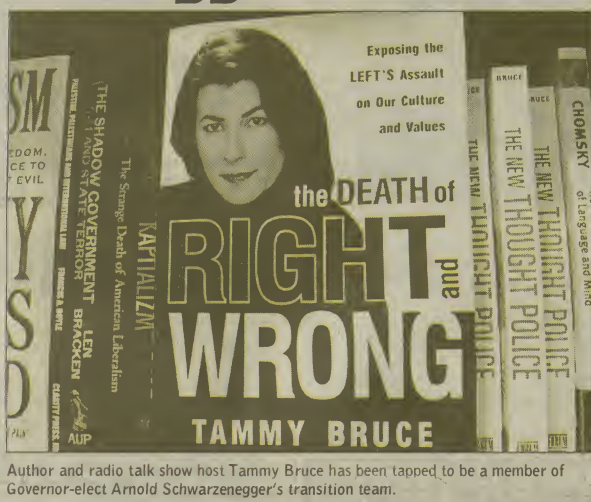
Controversial lesbian named to Schwarzenegger transition team

by Ed Walsh

She believes the "radical gay elite" targets children, she is "dis-mayed" by the issue of transgender rights, and she is a good friend and strong supporter of Dr. Laura Schlessinger. She is also the former president of the Los Angeles chapter of the National Organization for Women, openly lesbian, and now one of the 65 members of the transition team for Governor-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Tammy Bruce, the author of *The New Thought Police* and more recently, *The Death of Right and Wrong*, told listeners to her radio talk show on KABC in Los Angeles this week that her views in support of a fiscally conservative government as well as support for gay rights and abortion rights are in sync with Schwarzenegger's platform.

Bruce is a consultant for Fox News, and



Author and radio talk show host Tammy Bruce has been tapped to be a member of Governor-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger's transition team.

according to the network, is the first openly gay woman to host a radio talk show. Bruce's no-holds-barred commentaries have won her a loyal following and fervent detractors. On a recent appearance on ABC's talk show, *The*

View, she was lambasted by actress Fran Drescher for being "self-hating."

Although she said she is supportive of gay rights, there is no love lost between Bruce and this country's largest LGBT rights organizations.

Chapter 4 of *The Death of Right and Wrong* is entitled: "First the culture, then the children. The agenda of the radical gay elite." She wrote that the "gay elite" are the leaders of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, the Human Rights Campaign, and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Bruce said she is particularly bothered by the involvement of gay organizations in children's issues.

"GLSEN is a national organization with one thing in mind: getting to your child through the open door at school," she wrote.

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Police reform key issue in mayoral race

by Matthew S. Bajko

It may not be at the top of voters' list of concerns, but reforming the city's police department is becoming a major issue in the mayoral race. During Tuesday night's televised mayoral forum on CBS affiliate KPIX Channel 5, the problems that plagued the department for the last year came up within the first 10 minutes when former supervisor and attorney Angela Alioto called for police reform and referred to the now infamous Fajitagate scandal.

When asked if there were any city streets she would not want her daughter or granddaughter walking down, Alioto used the question to say that even on Tony Union Street, where three police officers allegedly beat up two men over a bag of steak fajitas, residents cannot feel safe in San Francisco.

"That happened a block down from me," said Alioto. "Right now we don't have a sense of security. It starts with the mayor and it starts with the chief of police."

City Treasurer Susan Leal also railed against the current leadership of the police force in response to a question about reforming the department. Leal, who has been endorsed by the gay and lesbian police officers' group the Pride Alliance, said if she becomes mayor she will conduct a national search to select the next chief.

"Our current leadership of the police de-



Mayoral candidate Angela Alioto at her campaign kickoff earlier this year.

partment does not serve them well," said Leal, referring to the rank and file officers.

Former San Francisco Police Chief Tony Ribera, the only Republican candidate in the debate, said he would also conduct a national search for a new police chief and would retain current chief Alex Fagan for at least the first six months. Ribera, who worked with Fagan at Southern Station, defended the chief as an "outstanding officer and an outstanding administrator" and said there was no way Fagan could look impartial during Fajitagate since his son was one of the officers involved in the incident.

The case rocked the police department throughout the first six months of this year. District Attorney Terence Hallinan indicted

Fagan, former Chief Earl Sanders, and other top police brass on charges of conspiring to coverup the incident but eventually had to drop the charges due to a lack of evidence.

Sanders, due to medical reasons, turned the department over to Fagan after the charges were dropped and eventually retired from the force this summer. Mayor Willie Brown, who defiantly defended his police command throughout the incident, then named Fagan as chief.

"The case was badly mishandled by the mayor and the district attorney," charged

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Jane Philomena Cleland

What better way to celebrate three decades of service to the LGBT community than to throw a party on National Coming Out Day? That's just what folks did at the Pacific Center in Berkeley when they hosted a block party on Saturday, October 11. The daylong event featured food, music, dancing, and fun for everyone.

Police probing East Bay transgender murder seek witnesses and info

by Zak Szymanski

Investigators are still looking for clues surrounding the homicide and possible hate crime of a transgender individual in the East Bay.

Ricardo "Sindy" Cuarda, 24, of Richmond, was found bleeding from multiple gunshot wounds in the driveway of a San Pablo business in the early morning hours of October 1. She was taken to the hospital, where she died a short time later.

Cuarda, who reportedly worked as a prostitute, was wearing a blouse and pants and was presenting as female at the time of her murder, causing many to believe that her gender identity was a

factor in the killing. Cuarda's roommate also told reporters that Cuarda had been shot in the genitals, although police would only confirm that the fatal shots were fired into the upper torso area. San Francisco's Community United Against Violence, an LGBT hate crime and violence prevention and intervention organization, has also been in touch with the San Pablo Police Department, according to CUAV's Hate Violence Survivor Program Director Tina D'Elia.

"This murder is senseless and crushing" said D'Elia. "Heartless brutality such as this only underscores the grim reality that transphobia is lethal and that as a society we must make certain that anti-LGBT violence education

reaches our communities, our schools, and our own families."

At press time, however, San Pablo law enforcement said that bias was a possible—but not definitive—factor in the homicide.

"We don't have anything to substantiate that this murder was a hate crime. At the same time, nothing is being ruled out. The investigation is still in its infancy," Detective Gene Alameda told the Bay Area Reporter.

According to locals, Cuarda had worked an industrial stretch of Rumrill Boulevard near Chelsea Avenue. On the night in question, a few people saw Cuarda strolling the boulevard. Others reported hearing shots.

But aside from a few factual

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Davis signs state equal benefits law, vetoes syringe bill

by Matthew S. Bajko

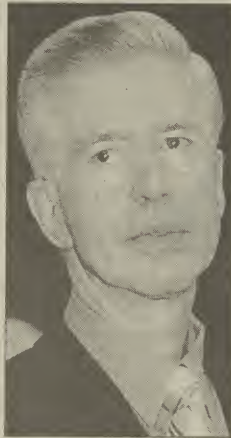
Outgoing Governor Gray Davis signed into law a landmark domestic partners bill, authorized the formation of a task force to develop guidelines on the use of post-exposure prophylaxis for treating HIV, and approved a state ID card for medical marijuana patients but vetoed a bill that would have allowed pharmacies to sell syringes without a prescription.

The moves by the lame-duck governor over the weekend brought praise from gay rights advocates and lawmakers as well as anger from AIDS advocates who have vowed to reintroduce the syringe bill in 2004.

By signing AB17, which prohibits the state from entering into contracts for goods and services totaling more than \$100,000 with businesses that discriminate in benefits between employees with spouses and employees with registered domestic partners, Davis made California the first state in the nation to enact equal benefits legislation.

The bill, authored by Assembly Speaker Pro Tempore Christine Kehoe (D-San Diego), is modeled on San Francisco's legislation, which has been enacted by several cities across the state and has led many Fortune 500 companies to offer domestic partner benefits.

"Governor Davis should be



Governor Gray Davis

commended for his leadership in signing this important worker and taxpayer, protection measure," stated Kehoe. "AB17 is based on a simple premise, all workers deserve equal compensation. When public tax dollars are spent by public agencies to contract for goods and services, those tax dollars should not subsidize the discriminatory practices of any contractor."

AB17 is not scheduled to go into effect until 2007.

Signage of the bill also marks a slam dunk for the newly formed

LGBT Legislative Caucus, which saw all four of its bills become law this session. In addition to the equal benefits ordinance, Davis signed a sweeping domestic partners bill, a bill that added protections for transgenders in employment and housing discrimination, and a bill that prohibits discriminations against LGBT foster children or against LGBT adults who want to be foster parents.

On Monday, Equality California Executive Director Geoffrey Kors stated, "In signing this bill, Gray Davis has solidified his place in history as the governor who has signed more civil rights legislation affecting the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community than any governor in the history of the nation. His commitment to equality for all Californians has resulted in California having the strongest LGBT civil rights protections in the nation."

But AIDS advocates sounded a different note after Davis vetoed SB774, a bill that would have permitted adult Californians to purchase up to 30 syringes at licensed pharmacies without a prescription. Backers of the bill, introduced by state Senator John Vas-

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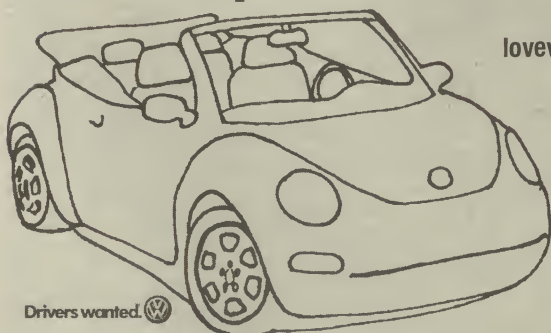
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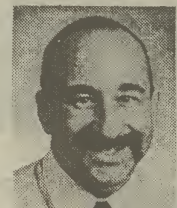
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Easy come, easy go

by Jane Warner

1 7th at Noe, October 10, 7:55 p.m.: A woman was attempting to parallel park her four-door Acura on 17th Street near Noe, but was having difficulty fitting into the tight space. After the third try, she noticed a man standing on the corner watching her. The stranger came over and asked through the window, "Do you want some help?" The woman nodded and the man started to give her verbal commands as she attempted to park again. When she was unsuccessful again the man asked, "Do you want me to park it for you?" Exasperated, the woman agreed, got out of the car, and handed over the keys. The stranger, described as an Hispanic male, 25-30 years old, with dyed bleach blond hair, got in, started the engine, and sped off, eastbound on 17th



Crime & Punishment

Street. Realizing what was happening, the woman screamed for him to stop as she chased after the car, but she lost sight of it as it rounded the corner.

Snap shot

Ritz Camera, 499 Castro, October 10, 4:40 p.m.: A clerk observed a customer carrying a folded newspaper and acting suspicious. The clerk noticed that inside the newspaper were two expensive digital cameras belonging to the store. Several other customers came in and the shoplifter headed toward the door, trying to slip out unnoticed. The clerk was able to get between him and the door and demanded he give up the cameras. "This is my stuff!" the suspect argued, then pushed the clerk out of his way using his elbow. The suspect - described as a white male, 25-35 years old, 6 feet two inches, 180 pounds, and wearing a black and red jogging suit - ran out the

door and was last seen on foot northbound on Castro toward Market Street. Responding police could not find him.

Rip off

900 block of Dolores, October 7, 3:30 a.m.: A man standing on his porch heard a ripping sound coming from his neighbor's driveway and saw a man cutting the canvas convertible top of his neighbor's Mazda Miata. The resident called 911 on his cell phone as the suspect rummaged through the contents of the car with a flashlight. The suspect then got on a bicycle and rode away, but the resident followed on foot, relaying information to 911. Guided by the resident's directions, officers soon arrived and apprehended the suspect as he turned onto Valencia Street. A search of the suspect revealed a pocket knife, two multi-tools, a flashlight, and several cassette tapes. The 21-year-old thief was taken to Mission Station and booked for auto burglary, possession of burglary tools, and possession of stolen property. ▼

Kamala Harris alleges coverup in DA's office

by Cynthia Laird

San Francisco District Attorney candidate Kamala Harris charged that incumbent Terence Hallinan is covering up allegations of misconduct against two members of his staff as the campaign turned increasingly bitter in the final weeks leading up to the November 4 election.

Harris, speaking on the steps of the Hall of Justice Monday, October 13, called for Hallinan to send both cases to the state Attorney General's office. She was surrounded by supporters, including former City Attorney Louise Renne, members of the San Francisco Police Officers' Pride Al-

liance, and Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom.

"These leaders are standing with me because we all agree that it's time for a change," Harris said. "It's time to clean up the mess, the incompetence, and the pattern of coverups that have characterized Mr. Hallinan's administration from the moment he took office."

The first case Harris cited involves allegations against Tony Saab, a criminal investigator in the D.A.'s office who is frequently Hallinan's driver. Saab, 51, is accused of using his authority to get his boyfriend, George Whittaker, 36, released from jail after he had been arrested on suspicion of drunken driving. Saab allegedly

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D.A. candidate Kamala Harris

Migden to enter 2004 state Senate race

by Zak Szymanski

She's in. Ending months if not years of speculation, Board of Equalization Chair and former Assemblywoman Carole Migden announced this week that she intends to run for California state Senate next year, replacing term-out Democratic state Senator John Burton in the 3rd District. Her signature gathering efforts will begin this weekend, with a casual kickoff in the Castro on Saturday, October 18, at noon.

Migden, long a favorite Democratic candidate who was voted into her offices overwhelmingly by constituents, is a left-leaning, openly lesbian, straight-shooting politician whose Assembly accomplishments include creating the domestic partnership registry that by 2005 will grant most of the rights and responsibilities to same-sex couples that married spouses enjoy. As chair of the Board of Equalization, she created and passed the landmark rule

change that allowed for domestic partners to inherit each other's property without facing steep property tax increases.

As a state senator, said Migden, her role would be to continue to build upon those achievements, ensure the implementation of recently passed legislation, and act as an energetic presence that will be particularly important in light of the new administration.

"When I was contemplating a way to have a continuing career and an elevated level of service, I have to say this job has great appeal to me," Migden told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "[Governor Davis] signed a tremendous amount of legislation that is going to take years to promote, implement, and showcase. We have a new governor now, and we have a lot to do."

"I plan to continue to work with the community around important issues. With the recall out of our system, let's move forward with some options that will bring stability to the state," said Migden. "I want to continue to evolve and offer leadership, and to be a part

of a team of legislators who will reinstate the process with energy and direction."

The Senate district for which Migden is running is twice the size of her former Assembly district, encompassing San Francisco, Marin County, and part of Sonoma County. She has already begun to do outreach to those communities across the Golden Gate Bridge, which she describes as "like-minded progressive counties" that are politically organized with Democratic leaders who are "excited" about their possibilities.

The Democratic primary is March 2, 2004. Despite speculation, other potential powerful candidates such as Mayor Willie Brown have not yet announced their intention to run for the Senate seat.

This Saturday, Migden will be joined by a host of LGBT and community leaders to present an informal campaign launch at Castro and Market streets; she encourages everyone to drop by and "come talk to us - we'll be in the neighborhood." ▼

Business mixer, 'memorial' tomorrow in Oakland

by Zak Szymanski

Six feet under" is the tongue-in-cheek name of the business-oriented party and "memorial service" to be hosted by the East Bay Voice on Friday, October 17 at Chapel of the Chimes in Oakland.

The event will mark the passing of the East Bay Business and Professional Alliance, an LGBT nonprofit networking community born in 1983 that "died" in July. It will also celebrate the creation of a new LGBT business group based on a for-profit model.

"There were a lot of people who liked the idea of the alliance, but not a lot of people interested in the work it took to make it hap-

pen," said Merle Yost, an original founder of the alliance, who added that being president of the organization was a 40-hour per week job "with no payoff." When the alliance called for new board members, and nobody stepped forward, said Yost, it became apparent that its life was over.

But all is not lost. Yost, who also publishes the online East Bay Voice newspaper, is behind the formation of a new group called East Bay Business Network, which consists of the newspaper's advertisers, who are automatically enrolled as members without a fee. The East Bay Voice Business Network will in effect be the "de facto gay chamber of commerce," said Yost, and will focus on printing a business directory, hosting

fewer, but larger events, and "creating and doing things on a sustainable model."

"It's very much centered around advertising and building business and community," said Yost.

Friday's event is from 5-8 p.m. and welcomes all business-oriented individuals and groups. A brief memorial service for the alliance will be held, including a tribute to the alliance's past presidents. But the remainder of the event will be a mixer and "meet and greet," with food, drink, and door prizes that include tickets to see comedian Margaret Cho.

Chapel of the Chimes is located at 4499 Piedmont Avenue in Oakland. For more information, call (510) 271-1814. ▼

TG murder

◀ page 2

details, Alameda told the *B.A.R.* that he is still in need of information, including some basic education around the transgender community and the practices and routines of a very distinct subset of sex workers. Cuarda reportedly immigrated to the United States two years ago from Mexico and had worked for a while in San Francisco as a hairdresser before moving to the East Bay. San Francisco police records show that Cuarda was arrested twice in the

city on suspicion of solicitation; she was booked under the name Ricardo Segura, but no charges were filed, according to a story in the *West County Times*.

"The transgender people I have spoken with have been nothing but helpful, and I appreciate that, because this is a whole different environment I'm trying to become familiar with," said Alameda, who emphasized that anyone with information - even tips about Cuarda's possible aliases, hang-outs, or clientele - should call him directly.

"It doesn't matter how minuscule they think their information

is; I'd be grateful to have it," said Alameda. "I'm trying to understand a whole new way of life, and at the same time, trying to solve a homicide."

Alameda also said that anyone who knew Cuarda at all should step forward with information. As it stands, Alameda's own research has revealed that "it seems that she went by both [names and genders], but if anyone that knew her wants to contact me, they could give me some insight into her life."

Alameda can be reached at (510) 215-3244. Anyone with information can also call (510) 215-3150. ▼



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OPEN FORUM

Reaffirming support for Harris

Last month, we endorsed Kamala Harris, a former prosecutor and currently a deputy city attorney, to replace Terence Hallinan as San Francisco district attorney. Despite a campaign misstep for which Harris has apologized and agreed to pay \$34,000 in fines, we stand by our endorsement. The D.A.'s office under Hallinan has been marked by staff turnover, mismanagement, and now, allegations of misconduct among two of his staff members. These deficiencies are merely the latest in what we believe to be a failed administration that has done little to make the public have confidence in the office. Sadly, Hallinan's office has a reputation for either not prosecuting offenders at all or overcharging in cases only to have the charges dropped or greatly reduced. The former is particularly true in quality of life cases involving repeat offenders. While we support drug diversion programs and alternatives to incarceration for some, people who violate the law repeatedly should be prosecuted.

The latest allegations of misconduct by two Hallinan staffers, including a gay investigator and the head of the insurance fraud unit, underscore Hallinan's apparent inability to be an effective manager. That, in turn, affects how the office operates, which affects how prosecutors do their jobs. While certainly there are capable assistant district attorneys and investigators working in the office, leadership starts from the top and, in this instance, Hallinan has been slow to respond to the charges and to explain the problems to the public.

In the first case, investigator Tony Saab allegedly used the power of his position to spring his boyfriend from jail after he was arrested on suspicion of drunken driving. According to published reports, the incident happened last month, yet it was only last week that Hallinan acknowledged that an investigation was being conducted. Saab allegedly had told jail deputies that his boyfriend was in a witness protection program, yet prosecutors have not found any case in which the boyfriend, George Whittaker, is a witness. Saab apparently flashed his badge at the jailers to get Whittaker released. The allegations, if true, are a blatant abuse of power and should not be tolerated.

The second case is equally disturbing. In that case, John Carbone, head of the insur-

ance fraud unit, is accused of assaulting a Sacramento County deputy district attorney at a convention in Southern California in March. Hallinan's office maintains that it did not hear about the alleged incident until July, many months after it had occurred. The reason for this is unclear. Hallinan's office maintains that it did not receive material from Sacramento County officials until that date.

Currently, both Saab and Carbone are not working. Saab is using vacation time and will go on unpaid leave once that time is used up. Carbone has been placed on unpaid suspension.

The incidents lead us to believe that no one is in charge at the D.A.'s office. If elected, we are confident that Harris would run a tight ship and that no one would be above the law.

"I will apply the law equally," she said at a Monday news conference.

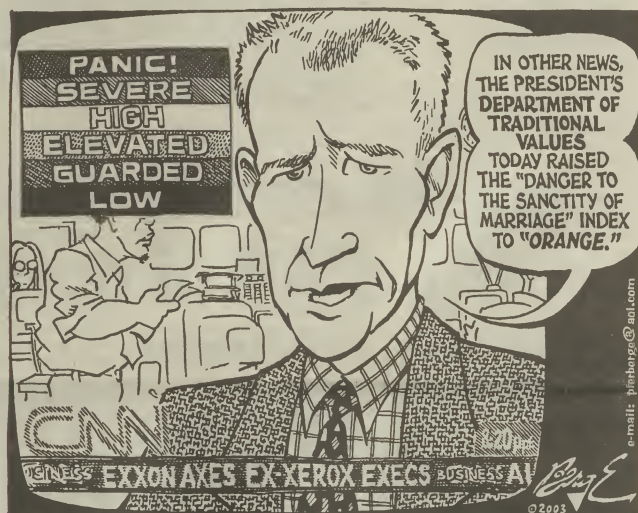
In regard to Harris's campaign situation,

she has acknowledged that a mistake was made when her campaign exceeded the voluntary spending cap that she pledged to abide by earlier this year. She has accepted responsibility for the oversight, agreed to pay the fine to the city, and now carries disclaimers on all her campaign mailers and Web site. She has agreed to work with the Ethics Commission to find "real-time solutions to clear up any confusion and protect the integrity of the political process."

In a statement released earlier this month, Harris said that no one is perfect, and certainly she is correct on that count. We believe there is a difference, however, between an unintentional mistake on the part of the Harris campaign and the apparent lack of oversight and supervision in the current district attorney's office. On November 4, readers can signal that a change is needed in the district attorney's office and vote for Kamala Harris. ▼



Editorial



Where do we go from here?

by Mark Leno

With the October 7 recall election now behind us, many questions arise. How did this happen? What were the voters actually saying? Has there been a shift in party affiliation? What will the impact be on our queer community?

It does appear that California voters were expressing their anger and frustration in recalling Governor Gray Davis. I do not believe, however, that voters are angry because Democratic leadership restored the eight hour work day, provided paid family leave, safeguarded our environment from further degradation, guaranteed a woman's right to choose, or recognized and respected domestic partnerships with added benefits and responsibilities. More likely, voters were expressing their rage at the 300,000 California jobs lost (10 percent of the nation's 3 million) since George Bush took office. They are angry watching their pension plans go up in smoke thanks to Kenneth Lay and at the hundreds of millions of dollars being spent on a failed Iraqi war which was sold to us in a package of lies, instead of on improving education, healthcare, and access to affordable housing. If recent polls are correct, it is quite possible that George Bush would have been recalled last Tuesday.

Nonetheless, our new governor-elect places in jeopardy so much of what we in San Francisco take for granted. Our strong Democratic majorities in both the state Assembly and state Senate will be seriously challenged in 2004. The power of Mr. Schwarzenegger's celebrity will be used throughout the state to oppose Democratic

members in districts we never before considered at risk. The governor-elect could also endorse a candidate such as state Senator Tom McClintock (R-Thousand Oaks) in a run against our U.S. senator, Barbara Boxer. He has already threatened to take to the ballot any measures he supports which our Legislature does not.

Within days of the historic signing of AB205, which greatly expands the scope of domestic partnerships in California, state Senator Pete Knight (R-Palmdale) and Assemblyman Ray Haynes (R-Riverside) filed papers with the secretary of state to place on the March 2004 ballot the repeal of AB205. Though a strong majority of Californians polled oppose discriminating against same-gender couples, these right-wing Republican legislators know the power of wedge politics.

Once again, our lives and our rights will be placed before the voters in an up or down vote. In the coming weeks, I will invite our new governor to join Equality California, along with many other coalition partners, to denounce this hateful effort and to urge Californians not to sign the referendum petitions. We will ask him to exhibit his self-professed leadership by stating clearly his opposition to any measure that is designed to divide Californians. We will expect and accept nothing less from him.

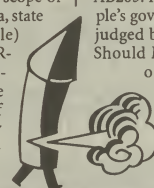
Throughout his campaign, Mr. Schwarzenegger's Web site clearly stated his support for domestic partnerships and his belief that they should have full and equal protection under the law. As a result, the

media repeatedly referred to him as "gay friendly." Disturbingly, his campaign announced just days before the election, that he would have vetoed AB205 had he been governor. This apparent flip, without any explanation, on one of our community's most important issues, raises serious concerns. He must immediately clarify his position by denouncing the referendum of AB205. He has said that he will be the people's governor. Now it is time for him to be judged by his actions, not just his words.

Should Mr. Schwarzenegger not strongly oppose the referendum, it will be clear to all that he lied to our LGBT community in pursuit of their votes. If that is his idea of "ending politics as usual" and of "cleaning house" so be it. Such a move would be a loud call to action for each of us.

We who live in San Francisco are in a unique position. Though the recall effort succeeded statewide by a margin of 55 percent-45 percent, we defeated it 80 percent to 20 percent. Not only did we resoundingly oppose the recall, only 18 percent of local voters supported our new governor. Though he should be given every opportunity to bring health and prosperity to our state, it cannot and must not be at the expense of our community or any other minority community. It will be our job to keep him true to his promises. ▼

Mark Leno is a Democratic assemblyman who represents the 13th District in San Francisco.



Guest Opinion

LETTERS

No gold for Lamé

I congratulate the Castro Street Fair for presenting such excellent entertainment, built around the great "Sylvester" theme. Thousands of us were delirious at Kimo's out-of-this-world "20 Years of Madonna in 20 Minutes." "Ethel Merman's" repeat appearances amazed us with his unflagging energy and amazing talent. Pepperspray and the Aqua Velvets were amazing. The always gracious, fabulous, and fabulous-looking Donna Sachet continued to set the gold standard for an emcee.

How sad this was interrupted by the unfortunate presence of emcee Lamé. When introducing Jonel, who was to sing a Sylvester song, she repeatedly wandered off the topics of Sylvester's career and Jonel's introduction, instead arguing with the audience, making inappropriate jokes about being too young to remember Sylvester, and treating the waiting crowd to tales of her own importance as a performer in the community. This was not only annoying to watch, it was disrespectful to Jonel and to the memory of Sylvester.

Eric Carlson
San Francisco

Positive light on fair

I'm writing in response to Frank Nelson's rather sneering letter ("Grease it and bend over," October 9).

A point of clarification is in order regarding the rainbow flags purchased by the Castro Street Fair Inc. Some years ago, the CSFI came to MUMC [Merchants of Upper Market and Castro] and offered to purchase four flags on an annual basis in an effort to maintain good-looking flags for the community flag pole, which is overseen by MUMC. MUMC's board gratefully accepted this offer and for the past few years we've been blessed with fresh flags on an annual basis with proceeds coming from CSFI efforts.

As president of MUMC I was the single person most responsible for prodding CSFI to become more responsive to the community and to encourage them to allow gate collections by community groups and sharing any largess from the fair with the community. Interestingly, they decided to follow the example set by the Folsom Street Fair relative to gate collections and proceeds from beer booth sales.

In the five years since these arrangements were reached we have seen the "give back" to the neighborhood and community groups go from zero to in excess of \$60,000 on an annual basis. While it would be great to raise as large amount as the Folsom Street Fair is able to raise, the optimism in me sees \$60,000 in a much more positive light than Mr. Nelson.

It is extremely unfair to compare the monies generated by the Folsom Street Fair against those generated by the Castro Street Fair, especially given the difference in sizes of the respective fairs and the number of years those monies have been raised.

Any money given back to nonprofits and the community is better than no money being given back.

Patrick Batt, Former President
Merchants of Upper Market and Castro

Castro fair prez responds

It was very nice for Mr. Nelson to compare the Castro Street Fair to the much larger Folsom Street Fair. The Folsom Street Fair is an international leather event and has about four times as many people attending as the neighborhood Castro Street Fair. I, as president, do not want the Castro Street Fair to get any bigger as it must fit our neighborhood. We do not get any government grants and our sponsorships are very limited. The Castro Street Fair employs hundreds of neighbors to do security, set up, and clean up of the fair and pays them directly. I am very proud to continue the fair in the name our founder, Harvey Milk, and proud of this year's fair theme in the memory of our greatest star, Sylvester. I am sure they would be proud of what we are doing, and the money raised by the community organization's volunteer efforts.

Steven Gaynes, Board President
Castro Street Fair

LYRIC committed to dialogue

It is wonderful to see the community addressing the issues faced by our younger members as reported in the October 2 Bay Area Reporter ("Gay youth struggle to feel at home in Castro").

Throughout our history the Castro has been a sanctuary for lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgenders, queers, and those questioning their sexual orientation. For generations – regardless of age, economic status, race, religion or sexual orientation – the LGBTQQ community has come to the Castro on a promise of a warm, accepting environment. Since 1988, the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center has been in the heart of the Castro addressing the needs of LGBTQQ youth as part of that promise. Our LGBTQQ youth are an underserved population and are often isolated, facing barriers in access to ser-

vices that meet their needs.

LYRIC is committed to continued collaboration with the LGBT Community Center, the Eureka Valley Recreation Center, our police department, our city officials, and the LGBTQQ youth population to increase the well-being, self-esteem, and pride of our youth, and strengthen the communities in which we live. We are looking forward to the opportunity for our work with our neighbors, local merchants, and agencies to expand our community programs in order to increase, diversify, and expand services for our youth. The closing of the Eureka Valley Recreation Center for renovations places a greater need for the continued presence of LYRIC in the Castro so we can continue our work and to promote resources such as the programs under development at the LGBT Community Center. LYRIC will be here to meet the needs of LGBTQQ youth who come to the Castro seeking these services and a welcoming community.

LYRIC takes pride in being part of the Castro to ensure the safe, healthy, fruitful future for our youth, for us, and for generations to come. We take great pride in being a part of such an agency.

Jordan Green and Maria W. Powers, Co-chairs
LYRIC Board of Directors

Why the Gavin bashing?

In response to a letter from Jim Harris of Oakland ("Worried about mayor's race," October 9), I wonder how he, as an outside resident to this city, can accuse Gavin of being an "outsider." Were you aware that Gavin was born in San Francisco, has served on our Board of Supervisors for seven years, and owns businesses in the city?

Mr. Harris says that living in Pacific Heights allows Gavin to "escape the real San Francisco of thousands of dreams." So in his mind, the real S.F. only exists in our gay ghetto or some other acceptable areas inhabited by citizens who would like to keep the status quo in power, thus keeping us all as vocal "progressives," who are often nothing more than martyred victims by choice. No thank you. I bet this group of voters does fear having a mayor who will solve problems instead of playing on a victim mentality; what then would they be able to complain about? I for one will stand up and elect people into office who will take stands on issues, clean up this city in all neighborhoods, and not cater to just any one group.

You, sir, sound like just the kind of voter that has allowed the homeless problem to get only worse, and put supervisors into office who act less mature than middle-school children. I for one am happy that you have left the city and would encourage you to get more involved with the politics in your own; seems the murder rate and economic problems in Oakland aren't enough to keep your attention.

A. Kruger
San Francisco

How could you?

How can you endorse Gavin Newsom ["Gavin Newsom for mayor," Editorial, October 9]? Please look at his voting record more closely and you will see that when it comes to representing the needs of senior citizens, renters, and low-income residents of San Francisco, he has always sided with real estate developers and big business. It's true San Francisco needs to create a business friendly environment if we are to dig ourselves out of the hole, but not at the expense of its citizenry. Kindly withdraw your endorsement of Newsom and look further into other candidates' voting records; you will find someone who can represent business and the needs of the greater good. It's just not Newsom, he's a wolf in sheep's clothing and will bleed this city dry.

Francesca Prada
San Francisco

Homelessness and the next mayor

At least 169 homeless people died on the streets of San Francisco last year. Mayoral candidates are making the rounds and seeking our endorsement. Thirty-eight percent of likely voters surveyed in a poll carried out last year identified homelessness as the most important problem facing San Francisco.

There are no quick fixes to this problem. As the director of San Francisco's leading organization providing shelter for Latino working poor, I believe it is high time we got our house in order in San Francisco. We need leadership on the issues surrounding homelessness.

We do not have a homeless plan. Despite the hundreds of thousands of dollars spent each year; in spite of the thousands of hard working, well intentioned people; in spite of countless hours spent arguing over the issues; we do not have a comprehensive, or even a bare bones plan that is invested in by all key stakeholders.

This is not for lack of trying. Over the last three

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years, a tremendous effort was put behind a plan that would have the buy-in from advocates, service providers, government agencies, and homeless San Franciscans. The result was the Continuum of Care. The plan was stillborn. Even with the hard work of a wide variety of talented individuals, most of whom took time away from providing services, the plan ended up with serious gaps in it.

So, even though there is a great deal that can be learned from the COC, and even though it has received accolades from many in the city, it sits on the proverbial shelf. Without a common comprehensive plan, or vision, we who live and work in San Francisco are left to react as changes come at us.

This year has seen at least three major issues that affect the poor of our city and how we treat them.

The economy continues to be in a slump, adding to the number of skilled and unskilled workers who are jobless.

We have spent much of this year reacting to, arguing over, and planning to implement Proposition N, Care Not Cash. The voters passed this last year, only for it to be later nullified by a court ruling. The Board of Supervisors passed a watered down version that will have little real impact on the system.

The federal government has mandated that cities implement a management information system to keep track of recipients of services. This is being implemented on a local level with an eye to reducing fraud. Computer scanners have been placed in all the shelters. Those with criminal records may self-select to spend the night on the street or in our parks rather than risk having their fingerprints scanned. Hardly a desired result.

This is happening in the absence of a general plan or common vision. We have wasted a great deal of time and money arguing with one another with little real gain. Leadership on this issue is urgently needed.

We should be demanding that the mayoral candidates articulate a vision and a method of dealing with San Francisco's poor. Such a plan must have at a minimum the following elements:

A commitment to simplify San Francisco's byzantine bureaucracy. We do not need a dozen city agencies duplicating efforts while not talking with one another.

A commitment to confront advocates, service providers, businesses, unions, neighborhood associations, and anyone else whenever we need to be reminded that the role of government is to provide for the common good while protecting individual rights.

The ability to bring together the divergent groups that make up this great city. That means all of us, not just the folks I agree with.

An ability to be flexible, to listen to the undeserved and to re-think the status quo.

We must elect a leader who can bring San Francisco together to find solutions.

Bob Nelson, Executive Director
 Dolores Street Community Services
 San Francisco

Thanks for showing 'real gay people'

I haven't read the B.A.R. in some time. I've always thought of it as home to sex industry ads and embarrassingly centrist political views (Newsom for mayor?!). But the other day I picked it up and read with interest a feature called "Queer Careers."

I am a counselor, and as such I would like to say that I applaud Mr. Eric Ganther's efforts. Many of my clients are fellow gay people, and I find that one thing they often miss is a sense of purpose in their lives. Last week's column "Gay producer crazy for radio," October 9, gave an example of someone with fulfilling and honest work, who is doing the whole community a favor by earning a humble salary and reporting for "Living on Earth" (a favorite radio program of mine).

Thank you for showing us real gay people leading real lives and making a difference.

Dr. Peter Plessas
 San Francisco

Looks great in heels

Everyday our community's choice for district attorney becomes clearer and clearer. As a San Francisco native, I am deeply concerned about the quality of life and the safety of the streets in the city. I used to work as a prosecutor in Santa Clara County, and I know what needs to be done to create a district attorney's office that San Francisco deserves.

San Francisco currently has the worst conviction rate for domestic violence and serious felonies in California. It should not be the policy of the alleged "most progressive district attorney" to allow perpetrators of domestic violence to go free.

For those of you who are thinking about Bill Fazio, beware. He is an alleged "death penalty" reformer. Two times he swore only to use the death penalty in the most extreme cases, but has "changed his mind."

Make no mistake about it, Mr. Fazio is a Republican in sheep's clothing.

Kamala Harris, on the other hand, has the support of Harry Britt, Mark Leno, and the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club. She is smart, professional, qualified, and has the necessary experience to turn the office around. Most importantly, she looks great in heels.

Mark P. Fickes
 Walnut Creek, California

The trouble with Terence

This letter is to announce the formation of a dynamic new political action group, Crooks Not Cops. Crooks Not Cops has been formed in order to advocate on behalf of murderers, rapists, armed robbers, and drug dealers. The organization's first order of business is to endorse Terence Hallinan for re-election as San Francisco district attorney.

Crooks Not Cops is particularly impressed by the fact that for violent felonies, Mr. Hallinan has the lowest conviction rate of any district attorney in the history of California. As a result, violent felons are set back on the street on a daily basis in San Francisco. Obviously, Mr. Hallinan understands and appreciates the fact that violent felons are not responsible for their actions but are merely the victims of heterosexist capitalist oppression and/or are acting out the traumas of bad childhoods. The last thing that should happen to criminals is that they be punished for their actions.

Equally impressive is the fact that Mr. Hallinan has refused to prosecute a single drug related offense during his tenure as district attorney. He obviously understands that dealers have an unrestricted constitutional right to sell to school children, in public parks, and on our city streets.

Finally, Crooks Not Cops admires Mr. Hallinan for failing to prosecute a single "quality of life" offense during his tenure as D.A. Street people have the right to destroy both public and private property as they wish and Mr. Hallinan obviously understands this fact.

Only right-wing cry babies are concerned with violent crime. We need to keep our streets unsafe for law-abiding citizens. Vote for Terence Hallinan.

John M. Farrell
 San Francisco

Election day observations

I worked Tuesday's election and though the turnout was massive, it was otherwise typical. A man was standing within 100 feet of the polling place handing out Bustamante election flyers (which is illegal) and the city, though notified, didn't do anything about it. One woman, in pulling out her I.D., was observed to have an alien registration card in her wallet. Needless to say, Bustamante won in this precinct overwhelmingly. In San Francisco, elections are held to keep Democrats in power.

James Keefer
 San Francisco

Lesbian discrimination

So who died and made Paula Martinac the goddess of lesbian dating ["Polled in different directions," *Lesbian Notions*, October 9]? Where the heck does she get off telling us to whom we're supposed to be attracted? When she dished lesbians for placing personal ads that say "no butches," did she ever consider how many women simply don't find butch women attractive or interesting? I mean, we're talking lesbianism here: women being attracted to other women. By the very definition of lesbianism, there is an implication that woman-loving women could find masculinity, masculine attributes, or masculine affectations a turn-off.

Speaking as a lesbian who has had butch friends, lovers, and housemates, I know too well the discrimination that exists in the lesbian community against women who don't look like "dykes," and against "femme" women who want to date other "femme" women. I've seen women harassed in bars for wearing makeup; I've seen them asked if they know they're in a lesbian bar and whether they're bisexuals trolling for a threesome. If you're not doing "high femme" and flirting with butches, you're suspect - that's not only wrong, it's heterosexist as hell.

I hear all this talk about diversity and about women claiming and acting upon our desires, but all I see is a bunch of politically correct fascists telling us we either have to androgynize away any feminine characteristics or act out butch-femme role play. These self-styled commissars of lesbian lust are the ones pushing "oppressive gender roles." Lesbian liberation is about freedom, not political conformity. It's about women being whoever we want to be, and loving and desiring whomever we want to love and desire.

As Sappho herself said, "We shall enjoy it. As for him who finds fault, may silliness and sorrow take him!" Or her, as the case may be.

Beth Elliott
 Oakland, California

POLITICS

Schwarzenegger: Why and how it happened

by Wayne Friday

Thankfully, it's over and this might reek of sour grapes but I still think it was a huge political injustice that barely 10 months into a new gubernatorial term that he was duly and fairly elected to, Governor **Gray Davis** has been soundly recalled and **Arnold Schwarzenegger**, an Austrian-born bodybuilder-turned-actor-turned-politician, was chosen to replace him with a plurality of those voting October 7.

Having said that, let's take a look at how and why Davis managed to get booted by an electorate that re-elected him less than a year ago and how Schwarzenegger, who acknowledged having "behaved badly" toward women and who campaigned openly for **George W. Bush** in 2000, managed to win as big as he did, with 48.7 percent of the vote, according to unofficial returns.

First, Davis, never a popular figure in California politics, did just about everything wrong in the campaign. To the point, actually, that he managed to lose at least 25 percent of the traditional Democratic vote. Those Democrats didn't necessarily want Schwarzenegger (indeed, most voted for **Cruz Bustamante** even while at the same time voting against retaining Davis), but the fact still was clear — they wanted Davis out.

Was Schwarzenegger's win a big one? No doubt about it, though he still was elected without winning a majority of the votes, but what the hell, Republicans are used to winning office that way — can you say **George W. Bush**?

There were many factors working against Davis in last week's election. Not the least was the fact that many voters (including a lot of Democrats) didn't really like the choice they faced in the 2002 election between Davis and conservative Republican **Bill Simon** and many (again, including Democrats) saw the recall as a chance to fix that situation. Many traditional Democratic voters in California never really liked Davis and there was little that top Democratic figures like **Bill Clinton**, **Al Gore**, **John Kerry**, **Jesse Jackson**, or others who came here on his behalf could do about that fact. I don't personally know Davis, but I know many who do and they say the man is simply not a likable guy; simply put, he reportedly has the personality of a wet rag. Wrongly or not, Davis's personality problems were worsened by the fact that most of those who voted last week — 64 percent according to a *Los Angeles Times* exit poll — blamed Davis for mismanaging all that went wrong with the state. Never mind that his Republican predecessor, **Pete Wilson**, along with a too-willing Legislature, was really to blame for the now-infamous state energy crisis, helped along, too, by price-gouging energy companies headquartered out of Texas. A whopping 33 percent reportedly said they felt that Davis was in large part responsible for the Cal-

ifornia energy crisis and another 32 percent cited the budget crisis as a reason for voting against retaining him. Never mind, of course, that the failed Bush economic program has another 46 states in near-similar budget crises. Davis, almost exclusively, took the blame at the ballot box for what was only in a small part his doing.

California Republicans, urged on by the national party, voted for the recall and against Davis by about 90 percent last week. Aided by disgruntled Democratic and independent voters, Davis was political toast from the day that the Bush White House conned Representative **Darrell Issa** (R-Vista) into funding the recall signature gathering process to the tune of \$2 million.

Davis, a prolific fundraiser to say the least, was also hurt by the perception that he was usually more interested in personal fundraising for the next election than in

actually governing, and that one had to donate to his campaigns in large numbers to gain access to him. That perception — partly true, I'm sure — has dogged Davis since he entered politics nearly 30 years ago.

Finally, there was Schwarzenegger. Take a larger-than-life movie star with countless millions of dollars in personal wealth, aided by millions more in personal-interest political donations (don't think for a second that he didn't accept them, though he would like you to think otherwise), run a very short campaign that merely involves sending the celebrity candidate neatly packaged up and down the state tossing out T-shirts to star-struck crowds, repeating silly movie lines like "Hasta la vista, Davis," but saying little else, and never agreeing to a debate unless the questions are provided beforehand, spend millions on slick Hollywood-type movie ads ... Well, you get the idea. All that a successful campaign needs in addition to all that is a very unpopular target — and Davis certainly provided that — and all the demeaning, womanizing charges coming out in the final week of the short campaign would matter little. A sure-fire campaign success that the Republicans ran very well. The result? Well, like it or not (and, proudly, 80.4 percent of San Francisco voters said they didn't like the idea) California will shortly have an aging muscleman governor whose political views we know very little about.

That's what it's come down to — Arnold "The Gropenator" Schwarzenegger as governor of America's most populous state. Hey, we'll all live with it, though we don't have to like it. Indeed, a couple of readers have already told me they are looking at property in Arizona. Probably not a bad idea.

Politics and people

Well, how about all those moral types praising **Rush Limbaugh** for being so "honest and forthright" in finally admitting that he's a stoned-out pill head, hooked for years on illegal drugs?

Not a lot of "honesty" in his statement from where I sit. I mean the guy was ousted by the *National Enquirer*; it's not as though he wanted anyone to know. Same thing about another national "moral crusader," **Bill Bennett**, king of the Vegas gambling tables. Why is it that the hypocrites always seem to get done in themselves?

And in Washington, the Bush White House is said to privately be celebrating the Arnold Schwarzenegger win in California but quietly worrying that the anti-incumbent rumble that seems to be building in other parts of the country could actually run over into the 2004 presidential election.

Candidates for the California Legislature must declare their intention to run in the March 2004 primary within the next month, and apparently some Republicans are ready to punish state Senator **Tom McClintock** (R-Thousand Oaks), who pulled in well over a million votes in the recall while refusing to back out in favor of fellow Republican Arnold Schwarzenegger. Carpinteria businesswoman **Beth Rogers**, a wealthy Republican who ran for Congress in 2002, is reportedly set to challenge McClintock in his own party primary next March. Rogers lost a congressional race last year to incumbent Representative **Lois Capps**, a Democrat.

A little late now, but even some Republican strategists are saying that had those sexual charges that the *Los Angeles Times* brought out against Arnold Schwarzenegger been printed a month earlier, he could have been in real political trouble. The Hitler admiration rumors rolled off the actor-candidate as well, as governor-elect "Nazis and Nipples" managed to avoid any meaningful interviews with the political writers right up until and including election day. I have to hand it to the guy, his campaign was masterful, but **David Dreier**, **Darrell Issa** and the rest of California's GOP House delegation voted to impeach Bill Clinton for much less.

Interesting, too, how quickly some California Democratic leaders have seemingly appeared to jump on the Arnold Schwarzenegger bandwagon. State Senator **John Burton** (San Francisco): "I believe I will have a very good personal relationship with the governor-elect." Well, let's hope so senator, because you sure made life hell for Gray Davis every chance you had, if for no other reason than to show you had the power to do so (and do we really give a damn that Burton and Schwarzenegger share Hollywood friends, as Burton pointed out?). Mayor **Willie Brown** attended a post-election Schwarzenegger victory party in Sacramento. And all of these Democrats joining his transition team? Give me a break. At least Brown, always a loyal Democrat, stood by Davis to the end, but the outgoing governor is said by some of his aides to still be feeling the knives in his back from Burton. As one well-known local Democrat put it this week: "It's going to be interesting to see how far Johnny (Burton) goes in sucking up to Arnold — he sure made life miserable as hell for Davis." that's humility, folks.)

And how was your week? ▼



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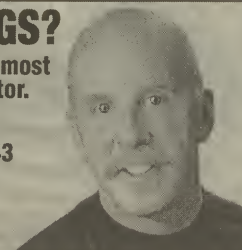
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Arnold and the paranoid style in gay politics

by Dale Carpenter

Will everyone in California and around the country please take a deep breath? It appears gay groups and leaders, especially in California, badly misjudged the recent election recalling Democratic Governor Gray Davis and stridently overstated their case against his replacement, Republican Arnold Schwarzenegger. The recall was not about gay issues, it was about economics. And Schwarzenegger is in no sense "antigay"; he's the kind of Republican who could help change the GOP for the better.

There were sensible reasons why a good citizen might have opposed the recall and might have been dubious about Schwarzenegger. The recall process undermines representative democracy, the basic design of our political system. There were also good reasons to be nervous about Schwarzenegger, a novice who offered generalizations as a platform.

But the fear that Schwarzenegger would bring a right-wing Black Death to gays, a fear expressed by some gay politicians during the campaign, was not sensible.

There were, first, the attempts by gay groups to use guilt-by-association arguments to dismiss the election as a "right-wing recall" because it was initially funded by a politician with antigay views. It was not that. In the end, the recall was supported by a strong majority of the state's voters in a high-turnout election. Solid blocs of Latinos, union members, the poor, and women supported it.

Even 42 percent of gay voters backed it in a state where they are probably even more liberal than elsewhere in the country. No wonder. The recall had nothing to do with voter resentment over social issues like domestic partnerships or gay rights generally. Not every election is about us.

There were, second, the hysterical denunciations of Schwarzenegger as some kind of crypto-fascist out to repeal all gay-rights laws and then perhaps to exterminate us. Openly gay San Francisco Supervisor Tom Ammi-ano predicted that gay-friendly state laws "would be jeopardized." Geoff Kors, the leader of Equality California, a statewide gay lobbying group, cautioned that a win for Schwarzenegger would "empower" the "right wing" to recall

"not just the governor, but the gains we have made for LGBT civil rights during his administration." In a front-page story on the eve of the election, one gay newspaper published completely unsubstantiated, last-minute "rumors" by anonymous sources that Schwarzenegger "supported apartheid."

Hyperventilating harder than anyone else, however, was openly gay state Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), who knows better. "Our community needs to come out and vote as if our lives depended on it," he warned, "because they do." Get that? Schwarzenegger is out to kill you.

All of this was at stark variance with the facts. Schwarzenegger is a moderate, even liberal, Republican on social issues like abortion and gay rights. A statement on his official campaign Web site affirmed this: "I am for equal rights for all," said the supposed Hitler wannabe. "I do believe that gay couples are entitled to full protection under the law and should not be discriminated against based on their relationship."

Sounds like support for antidiscrimination laws and for domestic partnerships to me, views Schwarzenegger confirmed in live television interviews. It's no surprise that fully one-third of gays voted for Schwarzenegger. And even that number, relying on an exit survey of self-identified gays, is probably an undercount of the gay vote for Schwarzenegger.

Schwarzenegger opposes gay marriage, true, but so do the leading Democratic contenders for president and so does Davis himself. It's also true that, again on the eve of the election, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported Schwarzenegger "would not have signed" the comprehensive domestic partners legislation recently enacted in California. But the story gave no source or rationale for this purported policy view, and I have seen no confirmation

of it from Schwarzenegger's camp.

What counts now is whether Schwarzenegger would support a repeal of the new domestic partners law, something being pushed by one of California's genuine far-right-wingers, state Senator Pete Knight (R-Palmdale).

As of now, there is no reason to believe Schwarzenegger will back a repeal. He has publicly supported domestic partnerships. Further, he does not owe the far right anything; their candidate was social-conservative state Senator Tom McClintock (R-Thousand Oaks), who finished with just 13 percent of the vote compared to Schwarzenegger's nearly 49 percent.

Many gay leaders and organizations in California and around the country seem to lack any understanding of the GOP, particularly the active struggle between those in the party who see no reason to hound gays and those who think they are commanded by God to do so. They have no appreciation of the significance of electing a gay-friendly Republican governor in the nation's most populous state. Schwarzenegger's election demonstrates how much the national party has to gain by embracing a big-tent strategy.

Blind to this, gay organizations know only one rule: all Democrats good, all Republicans really bad.

This cartoonish world-view reminds me of what historian Richard Hofstadter had to say about the excesses of the far right in his 1964 book, *The Paranoid Style in American Politics*. Extreme conservatives, he argued, took sound positions — like anti-Communism — and warped them into conspiratorial lunacy. The extremists lacked any sense of proportion.

When it comes to the GOP, gay activists often exhibit their own paranoid style. Reasonable concern about the party is morphed into take-no-prisoners rage. Where there is nuance, they see stealth. Where there is clear support, they see outright opposition. Where there are potential friends, they see bigots. Their paranoia is discrediting them, and hurting us. ▼

Historical project play Sat.

by Zak Szymanski

San Francisco State University and Boulder, Colorado's Naropa University both store and maintain hundreds of interviews, lectures, and readings from legendary poets like Allen Ginsberg, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, William Carlos Williams, Dianne DiPrima, and Dylan Thomas.

But such rare glimpses into the personal sides of larger-than-life artists and activists are in danger of being lost if they are not updated from older media forms to newer technology.

Transferring the invaluable material from audio and video tapes to digital media will ensure that important chapters of queer and artistic history remain usable and accessible. The problem, of course, is that transferring decades worth of data is a costly project.

This weekend, a unique partnership between Beat generation poets and contemporaries of San Francisco and Colorado will emerge in the form of a new play

by local queer writer Kevin Kilian. *The Big Keep*, written by Kilian, and starring Beat generation legend Anne Waldman as Lauren Bacall, launches in San Francisco at the Unitarian Center, 1187 Franklin (at Geary), on Saturday, October 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Written as an "agitprop" device for Waldman to encourage media archives preservation, Saturday's play stars writers Kota Ezawa, Steve Dickson, Jocelyn Sainenberg, Wayne Smith, Rex Ray, Cecilia Dougherty, Mary Kite, Karla Milosevich, and Will Yackulic. Naropa's Steven Taylor, a member of the counterculture rock band the Fugs, and former accompanist to Ginsberg, will provide the play's music.

Admission to *The Big Keep* is \$10 and proceeds benefit Naropa as well as SFSU. For more information, visit www.naropa.edu/audioarchive or www.sfsu.edu/~poetry/newreadings/oct18.html. ▼

Full disclosure: Zak Szymanski will play a small part in the production.

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Gender, gender, who's got the gender?

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

I want to take a moment and look at gender, because it may help to explore what it is before one can really grasp the horns of this beast called transgender.

The problem is, I'm not exactly sure we can even truly look at gender. The trouble is that gender is a mirage: substantial from a distance but, when examined closely, without real substance.

When I was young, I dare say, gender was a lot easier. If I walked into the local dime store, gender was as easy as turning to the left to see the row of girl's toys, or to the right to see the racks of boy's toys. It couldn't get any simpler than that.

Our society still wants it to be that simple. We have clothing, magazines, and now even television for men and women exclusively. Just about every product that is foisted on us includes within it some idea of what gender it is truly meant for. A deodorant may well be strong enough for a man, but it is made for a woman – don't make any mistakes and pick out the wrong stuff!

It is more than just about the products we consume, however. If one is to read books like *Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus* – and the myriad of similar books in the same vein – the two most common genders inhabiting

this planet don't even speak the same language.

It takes me back, yet again, to my youth. Language and gesture was taught on the schoolyards of my childhood, just as surely as the "three Rs" were expounded on in the classrooms.

Boys didn't use words like "pretty," nor did they cross their legs or hold their hands in certain ways. If you did, well, you were somehow less of a man.

This wasn't something that only little boys faced, mind you. The same was true over in the other side of the room. Don't sit with your legs open, don't be "coarse," and so on. To be a real woman, it seemed, you

had to be a lady.

I can no longer be labeled as being in my youth. My gray hairs betray me. As such, I find that these definitions of gender formed in my own youth are remarkably lacking. Now this thing called "gender" is as elusive as the games of "keep away" played on the blacktop in my elementary school. It's just out of reach.

In my youth, long hair was seen as something effeminate, even as the embers of the 1960s and 1970s had grown cold. Men with earrings were uncommon, and even then only one ear shalt be pierced.

Women's suits were a new fashion, as women started to be seen in the workplace. Skirts and dresses were still the rule more



Christine Smith

than the exception, makeup and "big hair" were still very much the norm.

I assure you, this really wasn't all that long ago, and there are still plenty of rules to be had that are akin to the above. We still live in a world that contains barber shops and beauty parlors, and still sells clothing in separate departments for women and men.

Our society is clinging onto these distinctions, trying to hold them as close to the heart as they can. At the same time there isn't anything actually in our clutched hands.

Today, while it is still not as common as I'd like to see, women can be found in boardrooms and loading docks. Jeans are as common on men as women, and much of the rest of regular wear is falling into the realm of either of

these genders. Men, too, can be seen sporting as many earrings as women, and hair grooming options have ever-so-slowly opened up from the short cuts of my childhood.

While a lot of the social mores of so-called men's and women's behavior is still stuff at the level of the schoolyard, even some of this is shifting. It becomes harder to define a man or a woman against a solid stereotype, as both genders are represented by any number of different examples.

So if there is no solid idea of what gender is, then how does one know if their behavior is transgender? There may well be no solid answer.

Today, it is common to see any number of men wearing any number of earrings, yet they would not often be considered a

traitor to their gender. Women, too, have more options than being only the prim and proper lady of days gone by, while still retaining their claim to womanhood.

When I look at my typical mode of attire – jeans, sneakers, a simple blouse or T-shirt, and maybe a blazer or jacket – I see attire that, aside from maybe cut and color, could be worn by any number of genders. As a transgender woman, that makes me smile, knowing that my gender isn't defined by something as simple as the clothes I happen to pick off the rack at my local store.

Indeed, while we still live in a world that is trying to define things against a gender binary, those binaries are becoming harder and harder to define. That is the illusion of it all. If we could set a stereotypical norm for the two most dominant genders – and knowing that so very few could fit such a standard – would we all end up being transgender?

We are left with the same problem with which we began. We know that transgenderism may involve a transgression or a transcending of an assigned gender – but those genders are shifting sands, lacking any real substance to hold onto. That may well be a good thing. ▼

Gwen Smith, as a kid, usually preferred to choose between both rows of toys, which explains a lot. You can find her on the Web at www.gwensmith.com.

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Survey teases out mayoral candidates' sex policies

by Liz Highleyman

This week the San Francisco Study Group on Sex and Politics released results from the first-ever survey of mayoral candidates' positions on issues related to sexual cultures and policies, including abstinence-only sex education, reopening bathhouses, and policies toward sex workers and public nudity.

The Study Group, formed in 1983, promotes new thinking about sex, sexual identities, and sexual practices, and encourages activism to preserve sexual cultures and protect sexual civil liberties; it is not a political club and does not make endorsements.

"This is the first time that candidates for public office have been asked explicitly about their position on a broad range of issues involving sex and sexual cultures in San Francisco," said group member Dara Sklar. "We are delighted that some of the candidates understood the importance of responding to inquiries from citizens about these issues."

Among the candidates, only Board of Supervisors member Tom Ammiano, former San Francisco Police Chief Anthony Rib-

era, entrepreneur Michael Denny, and consultant Roger Schulke returned responses to the survey. Study Group member Eric Rofes expressed disappointment that other candidates were not as forthcoming.

"The fact that several candidates who claim to be 'liberal' or 'progressive' refuse to go on record on these matters shows how much work we have ahead of us," he said.

Spokesmen for Gavin Newsom and Susan Leal said their candidates were overwhelmed with surveys and couldn't respond to them all.

"It was not a slight," said Newsom spokesman John Shanley. "We're inundated with questionnaires and try to answer as many as we can."

Likewise, Leal spokesman Tony Winnicker said, "We get hundreds of questionnaires, and we do our darndest to respond to all of them."

Winnicker answered several survey questions for the *Bay Area Reporter* on Leal's behalf. The Angela Alioto and Matt Gonzalez campaigns did not return calls from the B.A.R. by press time.

Study Group member Tim Vollmer said the survey was well received for the most part, but candidates seemed "cautious and afraid that third parties might use their responses to slander them." According to Vollmer, campaign spokeswoman Barbara Meskunes said that Alioto told her staff not to respond to the "inappropriate" survey.

The survey revealed vastly different values related to sexual issues and widely varying perspectives on the role of the mayor. Keeping with his Libertarian stance, Denny opposed government interference and regulation, but also was against government funding. Ammiano and Leal both expressed progressive positions, disagreeing only on the decriminalization of prostitution.



Mayoral candidate Tom Ammiano

continue support for HIV education and prevention activities."

According to Winnicker, Leal believes "local experts know best about how to educate their own community."

While Denny considers HIV education "a very good idea," he said it was not City Hall's job, instead favoring tax credits for private groups to undertake such efforts.

On the related topic of abstinence-only sex education, Ammiano said it is "irresponsible to provide youth with limited information on how they can literally save their lives."

Shanley told the B.A.R. that Newsom supports local funding for comprehensive sex education. And, according to Winnicker, "Susan thinks we need to deal with what's really in people's lives - abstinence-only isn't reality."

On the controversial issue of reopening the city's bathhouses, Ammiano said he would "support efforts to create, rebuild, or reopen sex-positive arenas that are safe and transcend our fears of HIV/AIDS," but "can't yet say that reopening the bathhouses sufficiently protects the public health."

Denny said he would "get City Hall out of all these kinds of private, personal issues," while Ribera, Schulke, and Leal all view bathhouses as a public health risk.

Ammiano said he would work to ensure continued funding for public health clinics that provide sexual and reproductive health services. "I am committed to ensuring that the full panoply of health education and prevention, women's health and abortion programs, the HIV/AIDS Ward [at SF General Hospital], and mental health services remain intact regardless of the availability of federal dollars," he said. Ribera would work with the Health Commission and the director of public health "to ensure that critical programs are funded." Denny would not spend public money, but would encourage volunteer organizations to provide such services.

Asked what he would do to provide for a safe and healthy environment for sex workers, Denny vowed, "I would stop the police from arresting people for engaging in private and personal activity." Said Ammiano, "I will continue to fight against harassment of sex workers and their patrons by law enforcement. If prostitution was decriminalized, appropriate health and safety standards could be adopted." But Leal - who serves on the board of SAFE House, an organization that helps women leave prostitution - does not support legalization. "She doesn't be-

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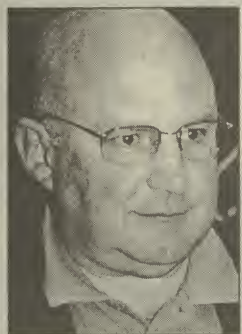
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Mayoral candidate Tony Ribera

Ribera staked out middle-of-the-road positions - albeit ones that would be considered liberal outside San Francisco. Schulke's response reflected the most conservative viewpoint.

"Many of [the survey's] questions advocate the destruction of both family and moral values," he said.

On the issue of federal restrictions on local HIV prevention programs, Ammiano said he considers it "a primary duty to con-

Mayoral race

◀ page 1

Ribera on Tuesday night.

The case further frayed an already strained relationship between the D.A.'s office and the police department, roiled City Hall, and called into question the role of the city's Police Commission. In response to the uproar, supervisor and mayoral candidate Tom Ammiano placed Proposition H on the ballot, a measure that aims to restructure the police commission and strengthen the Office of Citizen Complaints, a police watchdog group.

The Charter amendment would increase the number of police commissioners from five to seven, with the mayor nominating four members and a committee of the Board of Supervisors nominating three. Each member would have to be confirmed by a majority of the board and the mayor could remove his or her appointees only with the approval of a majority of the board.

Currently, the mayor appoints all five members of the Police Commission and the supervisors can either approve them or reject an appointee by a two-thirds vote. The measure would also allow the OCC to file charges against police officers after conferring with the police chief. In general, the chief would have to allow the OCC time to file those charges before the chief could reprimand or suspend the officer; however, the chief could temporarily suspend an officer without OCC approval.

Ammiano's measure has the support of several mayoral candidates, including board President Matt Gonzalez, Alioto, and Leal. Libertarian candidate Michael Denny, who favors less government intervention, said the measure in fact doesn't go far enough in dealing with the problem of police oversight.

"I would personally make the Office of Citizen Complaints have two seats on the commission," he said. "If the job of the police is to protect the citizens, then why are they so afraid of citizen review?"

While the measure has the support of the city's gay political groups, the gay police organization does not believe restructuring the commission is the answer. The Pride Alliance is opposing Proposition H.

"I don't think we need a Prop. H; it can be accomplished in other ways. Do we need more members of the Police Commission? I don't think so," said Inspector Lea Militello, a co-chair of the Pride Alliance. "I guess I would like to see the police department be less politicized. You are just creating a bigger political web than you need to have."

Joining police groups in opposing the measure is Supervisor Gavin Newsom, the perceived front-runner in the mayoral race. Newsom instead wants to focus on helping the department improve its crime-fighting technologies such as crime-mapping and a new crime record management system the department hopes to have installed by 2005.

"I believe improving the way the SFPD gathers and reports crime data, and holds its commanders accountable for achieving results with that information, will give San Franciscans the first-rate crime solving and prevention system they deserve," states Newsom in a policy brief on police issues. "I want San Francisco to improve outcomes, like reduced crime and increased public safety, not just outputs, like the number of arrests."

Alioto has repeatedly said she



Mayoral candidate Susan Leal

would "put disciplinarians at the top" of the department while Leal has said she would give police officials objective standards she would expect them to meet.

While two of the minor candidates in the race are more focused on homelessness than on improving the police department, they both have several ideas on where the police should be focusing their attentions. Roger Schulke has said he would direct the police to enforce current rules against common homeless practices such as public defecation and urination, sleeping on the street, blocking doorways, and aggressive panhandling. He also wants the police to conduct raids on homeless encampments as soon as they are discovered.

Jim Reid, a gay man and perennial candidate for mayor, wants to work with the police, as well as drug addicts, drug dealers, and private citizens to tackle the city's drug problems. While he wants to get drug dealing off the streets, his other views are at odds with current police efforts to shut down several houses in the Castro where drug dealing is a problem.

"If people buy, sell, and use drugs in private and take responsibility for their actions while under the influence, perhaps we should look the other way," said Reid.

The first change in the department the next mayor will tackle is selecting the next police chief. The issue has been used by several candidates as a carrot at times to get the gay vote during this year's mayoral race. Both Alioto and Ribera have said their list of possible candidates for chief include high-ranking lesbians on the force.

Two of the gay candidates in the race, Leal and Ammiano, are also said to be eyeing naming a lesbian to lead the department. If the next mayor does select a lesbian as chief, San Francisco would become the largest city in America to have an out LGBT person in command of its police department.

But that distinction aside, management of the police department has wide-ranging impacts on the city's LGBT community. Since the inception of the Pride Alliance last summer, the lack of gay men on the force, estimated to number less than 50 in a city said to have upwards of 70,000 LGBT residents, has become a flash point for the problems that ail the department. This fall the department's promotions policy and the fact that no openly gay men serve among the highest ranks of the department became an issue.

When the scheduling of a test that allows sergeants to move up in rank would have kept several gay men from having the possibility to advance, it took an intense lobbying effort and threats of a lawsuit to convince top department brass to change the date of

the exam.

Another issue the next police chief will face is soothing relationships between the department and the D.A.'s staff. This is especially important to new efforts amid the city's gay officials who are trying to tackle what they call an epidemic of speed use by gay men. In the past, the two departments have been at odds on how best to handle drug dealers and people who abuse drugs.

For the city's LGBT police officers, they hope to have a better line of communication with the next mayor and see that the rank and file of the department have a say in the selection of the next chief.

"The next mayor of this city will choose the next leader of this police department and that is huge. And I think people know that," said Militello. "I think clearly what the LGBT cops, what we are looking for, is to be able to have a voice inside City Hall, to have a line of communication. We haven't always had that. The expectation is there to be able to play a part and have our voices heard in terms of the selection of a new police chief. That is huge for our members."

For the majority of gay and lesbian officers, Leal is viewed as the best candidate to have in the mayor's office. Militello said the officers did not make their assessment based on if Leal would name a lesbian as chief, but because she has been a strong ally to the LGBT community.

"I think with Susan it is quite frankly her history. She has always been there for gay cops whenever we have had an issue," said Militello. "She is a coalition builder. She brings people together and I think she is effective that way."

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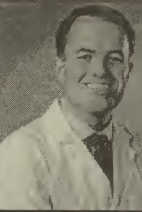
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Study refutes notion that gay Asians are immune to HIV

by Matthew S. Bajko

San Francisco researchers are warning there are troubling signs that HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases are on the rise in the city's gay Asian men.

In an as yet unpublished article based on the results of a three year study conducted with gay Asian men, the researchers sound an alarm that time is running out to prevent the spread of HIV among this at-risk population.

"Data from San Francisco suggest that risk for HIV infection among API MSM has increased from 1999 to 2002. Indeed, our data indicate that sexual risk behavior and STD incidence among API MSM have recently surpassed that of white MSM in San Francisco," write the researchers in the study.

The study results debunk a common myth among many gay Asian and Pacific Islanders who believe that they are somehow immune to acquiring HIV.

"The API community is seen as a model minority and hold these beliefs that are not true. They are assessing their risk based on that cultural perception or myth," said

Tri D. Do, a post-doctoral research fellow at the University of California, San Francisco Center for AIDS Prevention Studies.

In the article, a copy of which was provided to the *Bay Area Reporter*, the researchers warn that while it has been assumed in the past that gay Asian men show little risk for acquiring HIV and other STDs, recent trends in unsafe sex among gay Asians suggest that they are showing a higher risk for HIV than compared to white gay men.

According to the paper, starting from lower levels in 1999, unprotected anal intercourse with multiple partners, unprotected anal intercourse with multiple partners of unknown HIV serostatus, the incidence of male rectal gonorrhea, and the incidence of early syphilis among API MSM surpassed levels among white MSM in 2002.

"A window of opportunity to prevent further spread of HIV among API MSM may be closing," warn the researchers in their paper.

While gay Asian men remain under-represented among the city's AIDS cases, at 2.7 percent, with respect to their estimated makeup in the gay community, es-

timated at 4.5 percent, the researchers warn that data show this trend is changing. Gay APIs account for 6 percent of male rectal gonorrhea cases and 7.4 percent of early syphilis cases. Health officials repeatedly warn that rises in these STDs usually are indicators for spikes in HIV rates.

The study found that the incidence of HIV among those gay API surveyed was at 1.8 percent, just short of the rate of 2 percent for the gay community as a whole.

"The incidence rate has largely caught up to the rest of the gay community. It means that the gap could be closing fast," warned Willi McFarland, the health department's director of HIV/AIDS statistics and epidemiology. "This is a community that falls under impending doom."

At the request of the city's HIV Prevention Planning Council, the health department and Stop AIDS Project outreach workers spent three years, from 1999 to 2002, interviewing 496 gay APIs ranging from 18 to 29 years old. Among those men interviewed, the researchers found many troubling results.

Of the men surveyed, 47 percent said they had unprotected

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OCTOBER EVENTS

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Sunday, October 19, 1pm

@ Ellard Hall,
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Friday, October 17, 7pm

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DSCS shelter hosts open house, awards reception

by Zak Szymanski

Homelessness may be the most politicized issue in San Francisco these days, but the folks at Dolores Street Community Services would rather keep it personal on Thursday, October 23.

From 6:30-8 p.m., DSCS will host a unique public event in the form of an awards presentation and open house at its Dolores Shelter, at 601 Dolores Street.

The annual awards reception, like many such events, will be accompanied by dinner and an all-star guest list. This is one evening, however, where the guests and the homeless will be side by side; attendees will be asked to register at the shelter, complete with the fingerprint scan now required by the

city, and their dinners will be the same meals served to shelter residents.

"We wanted to invite people to see the shelter, and see what we do, and we thought we'd try to make it a little bit of an experience," said DSCS Executive Director Bob Nelson.

"Come see the inner workings of one of our shelters," says the event invitation. "Join the residents who stay there for dinner and a special program of speakers and awards for the individuals who have made a real difference in the lives of our clients."

After checking in with the system, guests will sit down to a shelter meal - "good food," according to Nelson - and the awards presentations will then begin. Shelter residents will be in attendance.

This year's awards recipients

are Supervisor Bevan Dufty, whose efforts secured \$50,000 in local funding for DSCS to make up for state budget cuts; volunteer Jared Vermeil, whose own DSCS fundraising efforts have included holding a series of garage sales, bringing in thousands of dollars; and health worker Edna Gonzalez, who is being honored for her commitment to delivering high quality medical care to the homeless.

The Dolores Shelter - housed in the Golden Gate Lutheran Church - opens at 6:30 p.m. Because event organizers "are trying to give guests a bit of the shelter experience", clients and guests alike are asked to arrive promptly next Thursday to avoid any program delays.

Thursday's open house is free of charge and open to all.

"We have a lot of fundraising events throughout the year," said Nelson, "but this is a chance for people to get to know us without having to pay to get in."

DSCS provides people with neighborhood-based shelter, housing, advocacy, and support. Its housing program maintains four safe and clean shelters with culturally appropriate services aimed at enabling residents to regain self-sufficiency.

Those interested in attending the Dolores Shelter open house should call (415) 282-6209, ext. 22; or e-mail rsvp@dscs.org.

ment of Health Services State Office of AIDS to convene a task force to develop state-approved physician guidelines for using post-exposure prophylaxis, or PEP, in cases of non-occupational exposure to HIV. PEP involves a two- to four-week regimen of antiretroviral medications such as AZT and 3TC beginning within 72 hours of a likely HIV exposure.

Studies of healthcare workers exposed to HIV through accidental needle stick and splash exposures to the virus have found that PEP treatment reduces the risk of HIV infection by 81 percent. Studies in San Francisco have shown that patients who have undergone PEP treatment for sexual exposures report reduced high-risk behavior even one year after the treatment was completed.

The bill's author, Assemblyman Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood), said the usage of PEP will help the state to save lives as well as money. He said PEP can also be instrumental in changing people's unsafe sexual behaviors.

"There seems to be a window of opportunity for safe sex counseling. Most people have an epiphany during the process of PEP treatment," said Koretz. "They realize that any perceived benefit of unsafe behavior is outweighed by the prospect of taking antiretroviral drugs for the rest of their lives."

Davis also signed a bill to clarify medical marijuana use in the state. SB420, authored by Vasconcellos and Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), establishes a voluntary patient identification system with a 24-hour call-in number for law enforcement to ensure that patients need not fear arrest or intimidation. It also expressly legalizes the medical marijuana dispensaries that operate in communities throughout the state. The dispensaries, however, still face potential action by the federal government, which does not recognize medical marijuana.

Americans for Safe Access praised the new law, noting that it takes the middle road to statewide implementation of Proposition 215, the Compassionate Use Act that was approved by voters in 1996. Under the new law, anyone with a state-issued card and not more than six mature plants (or 12 immature) or eight ounces of dried marijuana is now to be immune from arrest, regardless of county or city standards.

Davis

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concellos (D-Santa Clara), argued it would help prevent thousands of people from becoming infected with HIV and hepatitis C. In his veto message, Davis said the bill would have weakened county oversight and accountability in current needle exchange programs and added more requirements on already over-burdened local health officials. It was the second time he vetoed such a bill.

The Drug Policy Alliance responded in a release that "the veto is deadly" and that Davis's legacy on AIDS prevention "is death and suffering for thousands of California families." The San Francisco AIDS Foundation was more measured in its criticism, expressing "deep disappointment" with the governor's veto of the bill.

Dana Van Gorder, the foundation's director of state and local affairs, said Davis "has been overly responsive to unfounded opposition to expanded syringe access despite the fact that similar laws in other states have resulted in neither increased drug use or crime."

AIDS advocates have vowed to reintroduce the bill next year and are already pressuring Governor-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger to support the measure. The AIDS foundation noted in its release that Republican governors in Connecticut, Maine, New York, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin had signed laws that expanded access to sterile syringes.

As Schwarzenegger looks to trim at least \$8 billion from the state's budget next year, supporters of the syringe bill are couching their arguments with fiscal messages. The foundation stated "particularly given the state's fiscal problems, enlightened syringe policy makes sense. While it costs an average of \$34,000 to care for a single AIDS patient for one year, often at public expense, access to sterile syringes comes at virtually no expense to the state."

The Drug Policy Alliance's Glenn Backes said he is "optimistic" about getting Schwarzenegger's support for the bill, noting "nationwide, more Republicans have signed this type of legislation than Democrats. It's fiscally conservative to prevent disease."

While he vetoed the syringe bill, Davis did sign AB879, which instructs the California Depart-

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Legal victory for doctors in Supreme Court's medical marijuana decision

by Bob Roeher

The U.S. Supreme Court rebuffed attempts by the Bush administration to interfere with the doctor-patient relationship when it comes to medical marijuana. On Tuesday, October 14, the court declined without comment to accept an appeal of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals case that had been pushed by Attorney General John Ashcroft.

California voters approved a medical marijuana initiative in 1996 that basically decriminalized pot for medical purposes such as treating AIDS wasting or nausea associated with cancer chemotherapy. Eight other states have followed with similar legislation or ballot initiatives.

But the federal government has not accepted the popular will. It has continued to treat marijuana as a controlled substance that is more dangerous than PCP, cocaine, and methamphetamines. It has raided and prosecuted medical marijuana facilities that have operated with local government support, and it has threatened to go after the licenses of physicians who discuss use of marijuana with their patients.

In February 1997, the Clinton administration's Department of Health and Human Services sent a letter to medical professional as-

sociations saying that doctors "may not intentionally provide their patients with oral or written statements in order to enable them to obtain controlled substances in violation of federal law."

That prompted a lawsuit, first known as *Conant v. McCaffrey* and now as *Walters v. Conant*. Lead plaintiff Dr. Marcus Conant, a San Francisco AIDS physician, and other doctors and patients argued that it was an impingement on First Amendment free speech inherent in the doctor-patient relationship.

They won in court at every step of the process. But that did not stop first the Clinton and then the Bush administrations from continuing to prosecute sick people for using marijuana for medical purposes.

In appealing the 9th Circuit ruling to the Supreme Court, Solicitor General Theodore B. Olson called it "an issue of exceptional and continuing importance" that "impairs the Executive's authority to enforce the law in an area vital to the public health and safety."

The argument did not convince even four of the justices, the minimum number required to accept an appeal.

Supporters of medical marijuana were overjoyed. It "means that I can do my job again and have real conversations with my patients about medical marijuana as part of their treatment op-

tions," Conant said.

"The Supreme Court's action protects doctors and patients from government censorship of open and honest discussion in the exam room," said Graham Boyd, director of the American Civil Liberties Union Drug Litigation Project. It argued the case before the 9th Circuit. "Patients deserve access to accurate information about all possible medicines from their doctors, including medical marijuana."

"It basically upholds our right to interact with our patients unfettered by government intervention," said Donald Abrams, a leading researcher into the use of marijuana as medicine at the University of California at San Francisco. "This is a free country after all!"

"By deciding not to hear this case, the Supreme Court has eliminated any doubt that states have the right to protect medical marijuana patients under state law," said Robert Kampia, executive director of the Marijuana Policy Project, in Washington, D.C.

"Because federal law bars physicians from writing marijuana prescriptions, the right of doctors to recommend marijuana is essential to these state medical marijuana laws," he added.

Still, the Drug Enforcement Administration continued to turn a deaf ear to the courts. "It's going to be business as usual," spokesman Richard Meyer said in

San Francisco. "Marijuana remains an illegal drug and our mission remains the same: to disrupt the trafficking of illegal drugs."

A bipartisan group of congressmen, led by Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) and Dana Rohrabacher (R-California) have introduced the "States' Rights to Medical Marijuana" legislation that would prohibit federal agen-

cies from trampling on state legislation in this area.

Nine states now have laws on the books that allow sick people access to marijuana with a doctor's recommendation. And on October 1, a Maryland law went into effect that allows a "medical necessity defense" in the sentencing phase for possession of marijuana. ▼

Tammy Bruce

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Bruce is also strongly at odds with LGBT organizations over transgender issues.

"The idea of 'transgendered rights' dismays me the most," she wrote.

In *The Death of Right and Wrong*, Bruce described being interviewed on a gay radio program by a man dressed as a woman and wrote: "In my opinion, any man who thinks simply having his penis removed, having breast implants, and taking hormones turns him into a woman needs to be in a psychiatrist's office, not a parade."

Bruce also believes that the "gay elite" leadership is, in large part, responsible for the spread of AIDS: "Of course, AIDS also became a huge crisis because our society has been gagged by political correctness and the Thought Police. Because tolerance has become generally accepted, and because the sexual compulsives I am talking about are a subset of homosexuals, one dare not suggest that they change their behavior pattern."

Her earlier book, *The New Thought Police*, includes a forward written by Schlessinger, the controversial conservative radio talk show host.

"Tammy Bruce is one of my heroes," she wrote. "When you read her book and/or listen to her speak, she will become one of yours, too."

"Now, if I could only change

her mind about some things ... well, she'd be perfect!"

Bruce has strongly condemned GLAAD and its work against Schlessinger. GLAAD fought back. Two years ago, after the publication of *The New Thought Police*, GLAAD issued a lengthy press release detailing point by point what it said were inaccuracies in Bruce's book.

"Bruce's assertions about GLAAD's objectives have no basis in reality," the organization wrote.

Bruce did not return calls from the *Bay Area Reporter* seeking comment.

Geoff Kors, the executive director of Equality California, a statewide LGBT rights group, said that as far as he knew, Bruce was the only openly gay member of Schwarzenegger's transition team. Kors said that he didn't know enough about Bruce to comment about her but he was disappointed that Schwarzenegger had not chosen a political LGBT leader to be part of his team.

"The lack of political representation from the LGBT political community is shocking," Kors said. "We have more openly LGBT politicians than anywhere else in the country," he added, citing California's five openly gay state legislators.

Kors added that he was not pleased that the chairman of Schwarzenegger's transition team is Congressman David Dreier (R-San Dimas).

"He is rabidly right wing and anti-any rights for LGBT individuals," Kors said. ▼

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www.stdtest.org

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Asians HIV

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ed anal intercourse in the past six months and 51 percent said they had used a club drug during the same time period.

In the past six months, 24 percent said they had used drugs weekly or more, and 44 percent said they were poly drug users. While gay community leaders have focused attention recently on speed use among gay men, the researchers found speed was not the drug of choice among gay APIs.

"Substance abuse in the API community is the same as other gay men but some substance use is even higher than among whites, blacks, and Latinos. The use of ecstasy is particularly high compared to other MSM groups. Forty-seven percent in this group used ecstasy in the last six months," said Don Operario, a researcher at CAPS who is focusing on the study's drug use data.

And while much attention has been paid to links between speed use and HIV, the researchers found that use of speed did not necessarily indicate a higher prevalence of unsafe sex among gay APIs.

Instead, "having sex under the influence of ecstasy predicted unprotected anal intercourse. Also poppers," said Kyung-Hee Choi, an associate professor of medicine in the department of medicine at UCSF and a lead researcher on the study. "Other drugs really didn't predict it."

Another troubling finding in the study, the researchers said, is a lack of testing for HIV and other STDs among gay Asian men. In the study, 24 percent of participants had never been tested for HIV. Studies done with white gay men found 80 percent had been tested for HIV.

"The number one reason they are not getting tested is this perception of low risk," said Do.

To help stem the increasing trend of unsafe sex and STDs among gay APIs, the researchers said safe sex messages need to be culturally sensitive for this at-risk group. Armed with the data, health officials and researchers are better able to educate gay APIs of the need to practice safe sex, whether their sexual partners are fellow Asians or men of other ethnicities.

"Regardless of the ethnicity of their partners, they should use condoms," advised Choi. ▼

Steven K. Kackison



Passed away on September 26, 2003. Born July 14, 1955 in Syracuse, New York, moved to San Francisco in the early 1980s where he worked as a cosmetologist. He loved collecting glassware, music and jewelry. He liked to do artwork and coloring.

Joseph R Mullin

March 19, 1959-September 29, 2003
After many years of struggle against the ebbing and flowing tides of illness, Joe could fight no more and died on Monday September 29, 2003. A New Jersey transplant, Joe studied philosophy at UCLA and UCSC before returning to school at SFSU in 1994, achieving a

Master's Degree in History. An avid student, he was extremely proud to receive the prestigious Hood Award in 2001.

He put in many hours volunteering for HIV/AIDS organizations: Healing Alternatives Foundation, Project Inform, and he sat on the ADAP Advisory Committee.

Joe met Robert Multon in 1984; this loving relationship continues to this day. Joe leaves behind his devoted partner Robert, his parents John and Lucy Mullin and siblings John Mullin Jr., Richard Mullin and Mary Pat Zangrilli.

Joe loved throwing parties, cooking, traveling, reading, and going to the "Y." Some people have a smile that could light a room, Joe has a smile that will light the heavens.

A Memorial/potluck will be held at Joe and Robert's home: 178 Haight Street on Saturday October 18th from 3:30 onward.

Donations may be made in Joe's name to Catholic Charities Assisted Housing Program, 220 Golden Gate Ave, 3rd Floor, SF CA 94102.

John-Michael Olexy

John-Michael Olexy died October 12, 2003, on his 65th birthday, apparently peacefully in his sleep. He had given

the flowers at the altar at Trinity Episcopal "in celebration of his 65th birthday and the eligibility to purchase a Senior MUNI Fast pass." He told us all he wanted all notification from Social Security to be sent in plain brown wrap-pers.

A former vestry member and Senior Warden at Trinity, he was also active in the Metropolitan Community Church and often attended services on Friday nights at Sha'ar Zahav, the synagogue near his home. He was a sincere inter-faith ecumenist, a devout gay man.

He was a humorist, gay/lesbian activist, sports fan and ever seeking a long term relationship. He kept his agreements and was quietly cross with those who failed to keep theirs.

He was retired from the Federal Civil Service, had recovered from prostate cancer and was enjoying his retirement. An avid reader of newspapers and magazines, he swooned with the plight of the Giants and the Forty-Niners. He was convinced quarterback Jeff Garcia and he would make a fine couple one day. He called one day a few years ago to say that the Castro was in mourning. Quarterback Steve Young announced his engagement to a woman. John-Michael telephoned 90 year old Grace Athias every day, and drove

her to medical appointments and shopping until her death. He was doing the same for Lucy Erwin, a delightful woman in her 80's, until the day of his death. He was a real care-giver.

The executor of his estate is Larry Crinnin who now lives in Syracuse, NY. Announcement of services is pending.

John Venard

John Venard died peacefully on August 30, 2003 at Maitri Hospice in San Francisco.

He is survived by his father and



mother, and siblings.

John served in the U.S. Navy. His last employment was as a LVN with the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Martinez, California.

John will be remembered as a generous and loving individual. He always had a smile, which radiated warmth from his inner self.

Per John's wishes, there will be no service.

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization - and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

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FD #1767

Kamala Harris

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told deputies that Whittaker was in a witness protection program to get him a quick release. Prosecutors have said they don't know of any case in which Whittaker is a witness.

Reached Tuesday, October 14, Mark MacNamara, spokesman for the district attorney's office, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that Saab is currently on vacation and once that time is used up, he will go on unpaid leave while the case is investigated. MacNamara also said that the alleged drunken driving part of the case involving Whittaker has been referred to the attorney general. The allegation of whether Saab acted under color of authority is being investigated internally, but is also expected to be referred to the attorney general, MacNamara said.

"As a personnel matter, we'd like to find out what happened. We are and have been investigating," MacNamara said.

The second matter mentioned by Harris involves an allegation that Assistant District Attorney John Carbone, manager of Hallinan's insurance fraud unit, assaulted a deputy district attorney from Sacramento County at a convention in Orange County in March. MacNamara said that Carbone is on unpaid suspension.

The Sacramento prosecutor, Susan Wilson, told the *San Francisco Chronicle* that Carbone accosted her in a hotel bar and aggressively tried to persuade her to come to his room. Wilson has filed a claim against the city, which is a precursor to a lawsuit.

MacNamara said that Hallinan's office learned of the alleged assault in mid-July.

"Terence Hallinan is particularly sensitive to this issue," MacNamara said.

Bob Henderson, the spokesman for Hallinan's re-election campaign, told the *B.A.R.* that Harris's latest accusations against the district attorney are motivated by her own missteps.

"As a campaign person, this sort of strikes me as an act of desperation," Henderson said.

For her part, Harris has acknowledged going over the voluntary spending cap in the D.A.'s race by \$89,000. Earlier this month she agreed to pay \$34,000 in fines imposed by the San Francisco Ethics Commission and pay for public notices stating that she is not restricting her campaign spending. The voter's guide that was mailed to city voters indicates that Harris will abide by the spending cap.

In a statement issued October 2, Harris assumed responsibility for the mistake. Additionally, disclaimers will be added to all campaign literature sent to voters, and a

statement is posted on her Web site.

Hallinan and Board of Supervisors President Matt Gonzalez, a candidate for mayor, filed a lawsuit to force Harris to abide by the earlier spending pledge.

Duane Baughman, spokesman for the third candidate in the race, former prosecutor and defense attorney Bill Fazio, told the *B.A.R.* that the charges and countercharges between the Hallinan and Harris camps make the case that the next D.A. should be Fazio.

"It's ironic that the person screaming the loudest has just been fined the largest amount ever for violating ethics laws," Baughman said. "I think the choice of who runs the office becomes clearer everyday." ▼



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By a rope

by Jim Provenzano

Continuing to avoid the cartoonish horror of our state, and nation, became unavoidable for moments during the San Francisco Street Theatre Festival, held on Ellis Street in the Tenderloin District last weekend.

Circo Zero's Keith Hennessy commented between acts in "Bodies in Motion," that the world here on Earth is better than the heinous war being shown off by the annoying Blue Angels, whose bomber jets swooped dangerously close for most of last week's annual celebration of all things warlike.

Here on Earth, in a school playground, the performances under the canopied cage, hung with fabric, ropes and a trapeze, provided more uplifting forms of flying.

Project Bandaloop, whose dancers crisscrossed each other while rappelling slowly down a brick wall of the Senator Hotel, gave a more inspirational aerial performance than the machines flying overhead.

With all the interest in rock climbing, you'd think urban exploits would be encouraged, especially in the ghostly Silicon alleys of SOMA. Somebody's gotta do something with all those empty dot-com buildings. Why not play on them? (Hey, if you can rent a kayak - www.citykayak.com - at the Embarcadero, why not? You might need one to commute some day.)

An enthusiastic audience enjoyed the aerialists display of athleticism and artistry.

Alissandra and Amanda, a duo from New Mexico's Wisefool Puppet Intervention, tantalized with a Sapphic trapeze act full of balletic poise and geometric wom-inglings en l'aire.

The San Francisco Youth Circus's performers, ranging from tiny contortionist girls to limber muscled young men, backflipped, rolled, balanced on chairs, jumped through hoops, sometimes three at a time. Ever try jumping rope with a guy on your shoulders?

Recess was never this fun.

Marching bands are an essential element of football games and other team sports, but Oakland's Extra Action Marching Band was better at ambling around the block with a New Orleans funeral style as they searched for a losing team.

Speaking of losing teams, I hope you'll thank me for withholding my own version of the gay, antigay, nude, whatever PR spewed at us by and about Schwarzmachina.

I'll simply suggest a viewing of the prophetic Bruce Wagner comic, *Wild Palms*, which starts when a

Los Angelino discovers a secret passage in an empty swimming pool. A turgid TV movie version at least features Angie Dickinson in a great over-the-top performance.

But it's really about a Scientology-type celeb who becomes governor, using holograms for public appearances, as his cryptofascist Hollywood empire reigns, briefly. Urban warfare and hilarity ensue.

Cirque du so lame?

All this flying through air with the greatest of ease made me wonder if I should use the two free tickets that I won to go see Cirque du Soleil.

In July, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund filed a federal discrimination complaint against the company on behalf of gymnast Matthew Cusick.

Trained for months to appear in the popular show, "Mystere" as a high bar catcher, the HIV-positive employee of the group is suing over being abruptly fired for allegedly discriminatory reasons.

During that time, Cusick was a "healthy athlete" who "should be able to perform" according to the company's resident physician, who knew of his serostatus.

Cusick, 32, was a competitive gymnast for most of his life in Maryland, and coached for 14 years. Openly gay, he lives in the suburbs of Washington, D.C., and works as a trainer.

He also has been HIV-positive



Project Bandaloop aerialists on, and off, the wall

for the past 10 years, but told the Associated Press that he takes medications, and hasn't suffered any serious effects of the disease.

But shortly before performing, Cirque du Soleil told Cusick that because he has HIV the company would not continue to employ him.

Hayley Gorenberg, Lambda Legal's AIDS project director said, "Matthew is a healthy and vibrant man in top physical condition who is living his life to the fullest with HIV. Matthew is perfect for this job, which is why Cirque du Soleil hired him in the first place and why we're fighting to get his job back."

Gymnasts perform individually and do not interact with each other. But on the Russian high bar, the performer hangs by his legs from a trapeze and catches other performers coming off of a bar.

Cirque du Soleil's attorneys said the company was acting as a "socially responsible employer" that needs to avoid "known safety

hazards."

"It's preposterous for Cirque de Soleil to call Matthew a 'known safety hazard,'" Gorenberg said. "Cirque du Soleil denied Matthew this job ... because of unfounded fear. It defies both common sense and science to think that Matthew would exchange bodily fluids with another gymnast while flying through the air."

Cusick reported an undetectable viral load in two comprehensive medical exams by Cirque du Soleil's doctor.

"For any gymnastics performer, working for Cirque du Soleil is a dream job," said Cusick to the *Washington Blade*. "I never thought I'd be kept from pursuing my dreams because I'm HIV-positive. I thought society had gotten beyond thinking that people with HIV can only do desk jobs and never come into contact with people."

So, while they may offer group rates for your little AIDS fundraiser, they wouldn't hire you if you had it.

Need a few free tickets?

Ass fault

Playing gets gayer than Gay Gayerson at next week's Hiccup, a queer and genderfuck playground.

Pro-style wrestling, freaks and geeks, tunes, and drag makeovers are only part of the agenda at this recess fit for a gay school. Jump ropes and goofy jock attire are encouraged.

Coordinator Larrybob's whistle tweets on Sunday, October 26, from 1-5pm, at Corona Heights Playground on State Street, just north of Castro and Market streets. Go one block uphill, hang a left on State Street and there you are. www.kithology.net/hiccup.

Perhaps, like the New York gay teens who took on an intended gaybasher en masse, a game of Smeared by Queers will ensue on the basketball court.

Nice moves

In other arts - martial, that is - Triangle Taekwon Do Club will be moving its classes to the LGBT Community Center at 1800 Market Street and Everett Middle School at Church & 16th streets.

The club will be moving their Wednesday and Friday classes to the LGBT center while their former space at Eureka Valley Rec Center is closed for extensive renovations through the next two years.

Triangle Taekwon Do Club's class starts at only \$30 for two months and includes a uniform. The new schedule is:

- Tuesday: Beginners, 6-8 pm at EMS.

- Wednesday: Advanced, 6-7:30 p.m. at LGBTCC.

- Beginners, 7:30-9:30 p.m. at LGBTCC.

- Thursday: Beginners, 6-8 p.m. at EMS.

- Friday: Advanced, 6-7:30 p.m. at LGBTCC.

- All Levels, 7:30-9:30 p.m. at LGBTCC.

The new class schedule is also listed at www.triangletkd.org/calendar.

Triangle's third Matthew Shepard Memorial Tournament on Saturday, November 1, will also be at the LGBT Community Center. Participants of all levels will be competing in forms and sparring, and spectators are welcome to attend.

Triangle TKD is available to give lectures, seminars and demonstrations to your group or organization. They provide free two-hour self-defense seminars for other nonprofit organizations within the Bay Area and can provide very affordable seminars for for-profit organizations and community groups that work with LGBTs, inner city youth, seniors, or the disabled.

Triangle TKD's next free community self-defense seminar will be Friday, December 12, at the LGBT Community Center.

TTKDC has great polo shirts, sweatshirts, and mugs at www.cafeshops.com/ttkdc-proshop. Buy yourself or a friend a gift and show your support of Triangle Taekwon Do Club!

E-mail info@triangletkd.org, call (415) 495-1888, or visit www.triangletkd.org.

Liquid assets

August's International Gay & Lesbian Aquatics Championship is still reaping the benefits of its excellent organizational, and fundraising, savvy from Tsunami's event at Stanford Aquatics Center.

So far IGLA2003 organizers have made the following donations to local nonprofits: \$6,000 to Shanti, \$6,000 to the LGBT Community Center, \$1,000 to Project Open Hand, \$1,000 to the Positive Resource Center, with possibly about \$3,000 left to donate, most of that from donations received at the Pink Flamingo drag aquatics show.

IGLA participants were given a tasty dinner and dancing party last Sunday at Ruby Skyye. Drinks, hors d'oeuvres, a small mountain of seafood paella, pastas, and salads were complimented with mousse and cookies for dessert. Thanks for dinner, guys! Now, there's a lesson in good taste.

Speaking of fine menus, my second novel, *Monkey Suits*, is now serving. www.myrmidude.com. ▼



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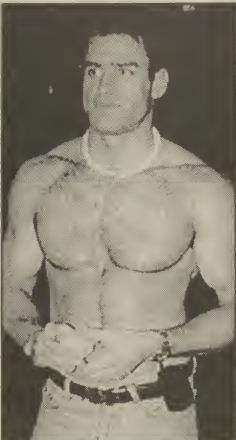
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The catch trap: Gymnast Matthew Cusick, fired by Cirque du Soleil

Gay sports talk at USF

by Cynthia Laird

Helen Carroll, former Mills College athletic director and coordinator of the Homophobia in Sports project at the National Center for Lesbian Rights, will lead a panel next Thursday, October 23 on homophobia in sports and the inroads being made for LGBT people in athletics.

The Gay and Lesbian Athletics Foundation will present the panel, which is hosted by the sport management program and the University of San Francisco.

Carroll's long career as a basketball coach and college athletic director gives her credibility when examining complaints. Her 1984 University of North Carolina-Asheville team won the NAIA women's national college basketball championship, making her the first woman to win an NAIA title.

Jim Provenzano, Bay Area Reporter "Sports Complex" columnist and author of *PINS*, the novel and play about gay high school athletes, will also be on the panel. He will discuss the media's depiction of LGBT athletes.

Other speakers include Russ Livingston, a former college track athlete and Gay Games VI medalist, who will share his coming out experience as a college athlete. Carmen Morrison, nationally ranked track athlete, San Francisco State University record holder, and six-time Gay Games medalist, will discuss how homophobia affects corporate sponsorship.

Next Thursday's event is free to the public and USF students and faculty and starts at 6 p.m. The panel will be preceded by a wine and cheese reception. It takes place in Harney Hall, Room 510 on the main USF campus, located at Golden Gate Avenue and Chabot Terrace. A map can be viewed at www.usfca.edu/online/gen_info/map_c.html#. For more information, visit www.teamsf.org. ▼

Survey

page 12

lieve you should treat them like criminals," said Winnicker, "but does believe we can help them get out of that life."

In terms of policing public sex in areas such as Buena Vista Park, Ammann said he was "not interested in expending law enforcement resources for the purpose of inhibiting or arresting anyone for choices made by mutually consenting adults." Ribera and Schulte both said they would enforce the law.

On the issue of nudity at public events such as the Bay to Breakers

race or the Folsom Street Fair, Ammann and Denny would not expend resources on enforcing the law, while Ribera said he was "not overly concerned about the status quo."

Coming from different ends of the political spectrum, Schulte and Leal agreed the mayor has more important things to worry about.

"If women want to run around with their shirts off at the Dyke March, that's fine with Susan," Winnicker said. ▼

Full disclosure: Liz Highleyman is a member of the San Francisco Study Group on Sex and Politics.

LEGAL NOTICES

YOUTH RECOGNITION DAY

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors and the San Francisco Youth Commission are proud to be sponsoring the 3rd Annual Youth Recognition Day to be held Tuesday, December 16, 2003.

Youth Recognition Day is an opportunity for the City and County of San Francisco to celebrate the contributions made each and every day by San Francisco's young people. Throughout the world, youth are making valuable contributions to improving schools, neighborhoods, and communities. On December 16th San Francisco will honor young people who have demonstrated the kind of leadership and courage that deserves our recognition.

Eleven young people, one from each Supervisorial District, will be selected and recognized at a ceremony and reception at City Hall on Tuesday, December 16. In order to be considered for this honor, nominees must be between the ages of 12 and 23 years old. Nomination forms will be submitted to the Members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Those honorees selected will be contacted by October 31.

Be a part of this important day by nominating a young person to be honored at Youth Recognition Day!

For more information, please contact Colleen Montoya, Director, or Ron McCan, Program & Policy Coordinator, at the San Francisco Youth Commission at (415) 554-6446.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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The City and County of San Francisco is currently accepting applications for class 3291 Principal Recreation Supervisor. Requires BA/BS degree in recreation, physical education, or closely related field, and two (2) years of verifiable supervisory experience in a variety of recreational activities, such as athletics, dance, drama, arts, crafts, summer camps, equivalent to the level of Class 3289 Recreation Supervisor, 3287 Assistant Recreation Supervisor, or 3285 Junior Museum Director; OR BA/BS degree and four (4) years of verifiable supervisory experience in a variety of recreational activities, such as athletics, dance, drama, arts, crafts, summer camps, equivalent to the level of Class 3289 Recreation Supervisor, 3287 Assistant Recreation Supervisor, or 3285 Junior Museum Director.

Visit www.sfgov.org/jobs/permpubs.htm for more details or pick up application materials through October 31 at the Department of Human Resources, 44 Gough Street, San Francisco. Closes Friday, October 31, 2003.

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Free or low-cost health care, (800) 300-9950. If you or someone you know needs immunizations, check-ups, dental care, birth control, pregnancy testing, or prenatal care, call us. We are here to help women, teens, and children find free or low-cost health care. The San Francisco Department of Public Health provides referrals to clinics, doctors, and dentists in San Francisco. Our English, Spanish, Cantonese, and Mandarin speaking staff are here to take your call, Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm

WIC Program

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Supplemental Nutrition Program provides nutrition education, food vouchers, and breastfeeding support for pregnant women, postpartum women, infants, and children younger than five. Vouchers are picked up at a WIC site on a monthly/bi-monthly basis and may be exchanged for milk, cheese, eggs, cereal, juice, peanut butter/beans, and infant formulas in most grocery stores. All WIC services are free of charge. For more information, please call (415) 575-5788.

BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE 0269934-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Lu's Tile & Marble Service, 2329 32nd Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual signed Michael Lu. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 15, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/15/2003. **SEPT. 25, OCT. 2, 9, 16, 2003**

STATEMENT FILE 0270026-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Left Coast Lifestyles, 15 Lucerne Street #1, San Francisco, Ca. 94103-5658. This business is conducted by an individual signed Marcus Alexander Loy III. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/18/2003. **SEPT. 25, OCT. 2, 9, 16, 2003**

STATEMENT FILE 0269994-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Golden Car, 730 Larkin Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Nopkun Ouitayakul. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/17/2003. **SEPT. 25, OCT. 2, 9, 16, 2003**

STATEMENT FILE 0269625-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Video City #3274, 1590 Pacific Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Ivy Jernigan-VP/Controller. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 14, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/03/2003. **SEPT. 25, OCT. 2, 9, 16, 2003**

STATEMENT FILE 0270196-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: CDX/DLD J.V. 1595 Fairfax Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by a joint venture signed Steven N. Chu/president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 23, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/24/2003. **OCT. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003**

STATEMENT FILE 0269872-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Molas, 4035 18th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jose A. Canto. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/12/2003. **OCT. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003**

STATEMENT FILE 0270227-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Lilliput Pictures, 3553 20th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Joseph R. Goldstone. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 25, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/25/2003. **OCT. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003**

STATEMENT FILE 0269973-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: CM Recruiting, 439 Moraga Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Christina K. Murphy. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 15, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/17/2003. **OCT. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003**

STATEMENT FILE 0270262-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Wing Cheung Co. 2832 Fulton Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by an individual signed Yau Sunny W. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 26, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/26/2003. **OCT. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003**

STATEMENT FILE 0270253-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Ba And Such, 1382 Underwood Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual signed Ba Huynh. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 26, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/26/2003. **OCT. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003**

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is: Richmond New May Wah Supermarket Inc. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 709-711 Clement Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. Type of license Applied for: **21-OFF-SALE GENERAL OCT. 2, 9, 16, 2003**

STATEMENT FILE 0270329-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Bangkok Noodles, 156 Powell Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Somnuk Loui. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/30/2003. **OCT. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003**

STATEMENT FILE 0270327-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: West Portal Shoe Service, 79 West Portal Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94127. This business is conducted by an individual signed George Bartslokas. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 30, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/30/2003. **OCT. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003**

STATEMENT FILE 0270363-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Iridescent, 3937 17th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Daniel Nicholas Warth. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on October 01, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/01/2003. **OCT. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2003**

STATEMENT FILE 0270323-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Rosie's, 3463 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Everardo Duenas. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 30, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/30/2003. **OCT. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2003**

STATEMENT FILE 0269833-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Alfrix Handy, 56 Seville Street, San Francisco, 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Alberto Benavides. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 10, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/10/2003. **OCT. 9, 16, 23, 30, 2003**

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 261755

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Rosie's Florist. Located at: 1155 Market Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business was conducted by an individual signed Everardo Duenas. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: October 22, 2002. **OCTOBER 9, 16, 23, 30, 2003**

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: A-0261549-00

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Dream Gift & Varieties. Located at: 347 Judah Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business was conducted by a husband and wife signed Leslie I. Tsang and Jason Tsang. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: October 11, 2002. **OCTOBER 9, 16, 23, 30, 2003**

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 03-540951

In the Matter of the Application of Minh Van Nguyen, Patrick Tuan Le, Sophia Phuong Le For change of Name. The application of Minh Van Nguyen, Patrick Tuan Le, Sophia Phuong Le for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Minh Van Nguyen, Patrick Tuan Le, Sophia Phuong Le has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Minh Tich Vu, Patrick Tuan Vu, Sophia Phuong Vu. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 18th day of December at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. **SEPT. 25, OCT. 2, 9, 16, 2003**

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 03-540950

In the Matter of the Application of Tana Marietta Chrisman For change of Name. The application of Tana Marietta Chrisman for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Tana Marietta Chrisman has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Montana Marietta Chrisman. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 20th day of November at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. **OCT. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2003**

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 03-540953

In the Matter of the Application of Giord Joseph Tillman, III, Samantha Michelle Tillman For change of Name. The application of Giord Joseph Tillman, III, Samantha Michelle Tillman for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Giord Joseph Tillman, III, Samantha Michelle Tillman has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Giord Joseph St. Martin, Samantha Michelle St. Martin. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 4th day of December at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. **SEPT. 25, OCT. 2, 9, 16, 2003**

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO ORDER FOR PUBLICATION OF SUMMONS OR CITATION CASE NUMBER: FL92-048472

Upon reading and filing evidence consisting of a declaration as provided in Section 415.50 CCP by petitioner, and it satisfactorily appearing therefrom that the defendant, respondent, or citee Freddy Guardiola, cannot be served with reasonable diligence in any other manner specified in article 3, Chapter 4, Title 5 of the Code of Civil Procedure, and it also appearing from the verified complaint or petition that a good cause of action exists in this action in favor of the plaintiff, petitioner, or citee therein and against the action or that the party to be served has or claims an interest in, real or personal property in this state that is subject to the jurisdiction of the Court or the relief demanded in the action consists wholly or in part in excluding such party from any interest in such property. NOW, on motion of Angela Hodgson, Petitioner(s), IT IS ORDERED that the service of said summons or citation in this action be made upon said defendant, respondent, or citee by publication thereof in The Bay Area Reporter a newspaper of general circulation published at San Francisco California, hereby designated as the newspaper most likely to give notice to said defendant, that said publication be made at least once a week for four successive weeks. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of said summons or citation and of said complaint or petition in this action be forthwith deposited in the United States Post Office, post-paid, directed to said defendant, respondent, or citee if his address is ascertained before expiration of the time prescribed for the publication of this summons or citation and a declaration of this mailing or of the fact that the address was not ascertained be filed at the expiration of the time prescribed for the publication. Charlotte Walter Woolard, Judge of the Superior Court. **OCTOBER 9, 16, 23, 30, 2003**

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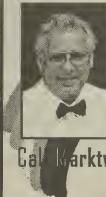
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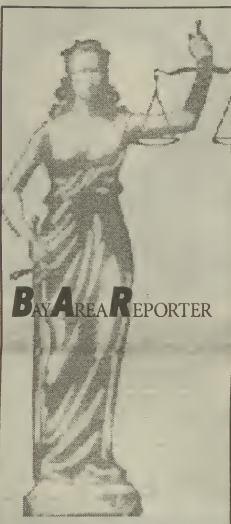
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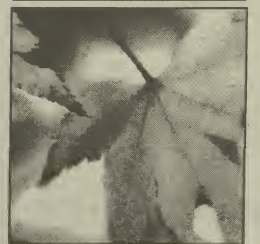
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Bumper crop of Bay Area theatre
Sondheim's 'A Little Night Music,' Bock's
'Thursday,' Holden's 'Nickel and Dime.'
pages 27, 30

Meet Motion-Lab
'As Above, So Below' gets a
run at the ODC Theater.
page 29



Media mediation
SFMOMA's 'Reprocessing
Information' reviewed.
page 31



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 33 • No. 42 • 16 October 2003

'Barber' with extra toppings

San Francisco Opera pulls out all the stops

by Stephanie von Buchau

By now, even the casual opera-lover knows that some pieces just do not belong in a barn like the War Memorial Opera House. Handel, Mozart and the bel cantists wrote their masterpieces for much smaller opera houses, with orchestras half the size of the San Francisco Opera's regular pit band. Yet there is something else about that

period of opera that is not so well known, but that has a huge impact on what we see (not hear) today.

The typical Italian opera house in 1816, the year of Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*, was fully-lighted at all times. What we call the "orchestra" level had no seats; men strolled around down there, talking, making bets, ogling women seated in the boxes, where people chatted, ate, read, even made love. The only time this activity stopped was during a major aria or ensemble.

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Nathan Gunn (Figaro) gives a shave to Teresa Lonsbury (acrobat) in SF Opera's *The Barber of Seville*.

Gay apple on the family tree

David Drake reflects on being the 'Son of Dracula'

by Richard Dodds

When David Dracula's parents divorced when he was 7, his mother decided that henceforth her son would be known as David Drake.

But after David Drake went through his mother's death in a car accident when he was 17, he began recovering from drug and alcohol addiction at age 23, and became famous for his solo play *The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me* before he turned 30, he set out to bridge the distance between his father and himself. *Son of Dracula*, the story of that crossing, opens this week at the New Conservatory Theatre Center.

In the 90-minute show, Drake plays 25 of the colorful and eccentric characters he encountered on a personal pilgrimage to Croatia and Romania, where he attended the World Dracula Congress in Bucharest. "I was there to claim my identity," Drake said. His conclusion was that he is indeed a descendant of the 15th-century Transylvanian prince who inspired Bram Stoker to write *Dracula*, a conclusion disputed by the Romanian government. "I understand," Drake said,

"because they have nothing but these pieces of the past that people keep stealing from them."

But proving that his bloodlines extended to the notorious historical/fictional character was not the initial motivation for the project. "I started doing genealogy about eight years ago while I was in London doing *Larry Kramer*," Drake said. "I started to reclaim my real name, and I started to rethink my relationship with my father. The genealogy was a way of finding something to share with my father because we shared so little."

The deeper Drake dug, the more fascinated he became. In fact, he wound up with so much to tell that the first production of *Son of Dracula* was close to three hours.

He cut it to two hours for the New York production last year, and now it runs a compact 90 minutes. "I cut out the entire subplot about my mother," Drake explained. "Frankly, I think it was some of my best writing, but that doesn't mean it belongs in this show. Now I completely focus on the relationship with my father."

When the show debuted, Drake's father, who died last

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Backstage



SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

Getting wigged out over X-mas

We're already bracing for the holidays, are you?

by Roberto Friedman

Hostess Dearest aka Marc Huestis has let the genie out of the bottle (or the wig out of the box) regarding his inevitable next event. The Castro Theatre will be the site of homo holiday hijinx when *A Hed-Wigged Out X-mas* takes over the venerable old movie palace on Friday, December 19. *Hedwig* him/herself, **John Cameron Mitchell**, co-creator and star of *Hedwig & the Angry Inch*, will take center stage for a reading of gay immortal scribe **Truman Capote's** classic tale, "A Christmas Memory," which we're sure will warm the cockles of Out There's heart — and you didn't know we had one!

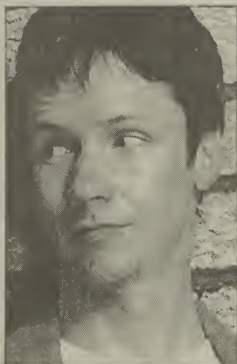
Femcee **Heklina** as **Hed-Klina** will hostess, with a groovy holiday set by comic from Hell **Greg Proops** (*Whose Line Is It Anyway*, *Nightmare Before X-Mas*), and performances by vaudeville sensation **Matthew Martin** (*Christ-*



X-mas nightmare Greg Proops

mas With the Crawfords) as **Heggy Lee** and superstar **Arturo Galster** as **Rockin' Granny Hedwig**. Special bonus prize: trendy glamour salon **Glama-Rama** will present *The Hed-Wigged Out Christmas Contest* — with nails by **Sassy!** All this, plus a rollicking screening of the far-out cult clas-

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John C. Mitchell: hot and bothered

Hot off the press

Hedwig director Mitchell, meanwhile, is currently hard at work on his next film project, a film with real live sex in it. "What gets me all hot and bothered is that we can use sex as a metaphor for other things," he tells *Variety* supplement magazine *VLife*. "If I show a guy pleasuring himself orally, coming in his own mouth, then bursting into tears, how's that for a metaphor of someone who's never experienced a meaningful relationship?" Um, overdetermined?

Mitchell's goal, he says, is "to get them to leave the theater with an emotional hard-on." Right, and we're emotionally horny.

Meanwhile, in an amusing Q&A with last week's *Rolling Stone*, gay recording artist **Rufus Wainwright** answers the musical question, "What musicians are in denial about their homosexuality?"



Rufus longs for the closet.

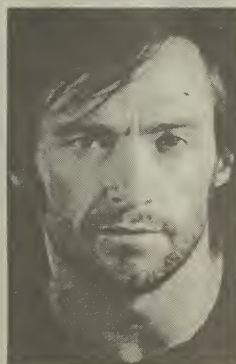
Rufus playfully replies, "Like **Robbie Williams**? I don't know. Part of me thinks that it may have been better if I had hidden that I was gay, in terms of record sales. If anything, I admire people who stay in the closet."

Really? "It must take incredible wherewithal and guts to be so dishonest. So my hat's off to all you closeted people. You're one step ahead of me." And two steps back.

Peter principle

We got our media fix this week by reading oversized magazines. Noted Scientologist **John Travolta** had a lovely chat with humpy Aussie

actor **Hugh Jackman** for *Interview* magazine; Hughie is making his Broadway debut portraying **Liza Minnelli's** first gay husband, singer/songwriter/plague casualty



Humpy Hughie Jackman plays gay

Peter Allen, in a new bio-musical called *The Boy from Oz* that's all the buzz.

Johnny asks Hughie (that's what they call each other, they're such close pals): "How are you approaching Peter's sexuality? Is it significant in the piece?"

Hughie: "Yeah. He was married to Liza, and they were madly in love. When that fell out, Peter was with a guy called **Greg** for 20 years. Their love affair is very central to understanding who Peter was. The director (**Philip William McKinley**) said to me, 'Hugh, because you're straight, I feel like you're thinking you have to put something in [your performance] about Peter being gay, and it's not the way to go. You've got to think of him as a little kid who just wants everything. Women found him sexy, men found him sexy.' Yes, but could he come in his own mouth [see item above]? More to the point: can Hughie?"

Picture this

Selections from the **James C. Hormel** Gay and Lesbian Center's recent purchase of **Rick Gerharter's** photographic portfolio of queer life in San Francisco are on exhibit at the **Harvey Milk Memorial Branch** of the San Francisco Public Library, 3555 16th Street in the Castro. Gerharter's contributions to the gay press are huge. The exhibit includes black-and-white photos from the early '90s era of queer activism, visibility and AIDS caregiving in San Francisco. Through Oct. 29. The Branch Library can be reached at 554-9445.

House style

Pleasures of the **SFJazz** fest's annual press lunch always include performances by jazz artists who make cameos. This year at Enrico's, Bay Area original **Dan Hicks** hilariously took bow after bow after he was introduced from the stage; he and his **Jazztet Noir** will share a double bill with **Maria Muldaur** *Remembering Peggy Lee* on Sun., Nov. 7, 7 p.m. at the Palace of Fine Arts Theatre. Then vocalist **Kitty Margolis** scattered through a set with members of the **SFJazz All-Star High School Ensemble**, talented youth from all over the Bay Area in their first pro opportunity. They swung. Margolis sings Sun., Nov. 9, 2 p.m. at the lovely **Florence Gould Theatre** at

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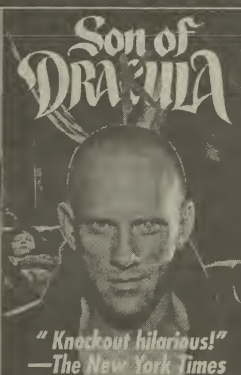
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Sondheim scores

TheatreWorks' 'Night Music' in Mt. View

by Richard Dodds

A Little *Night Music* was the most commercially successful of the Stephen Sondheim-Hal Prince collaborations, but it may be the hardest to get right. A delicate balance need be struck between the cool sophistication of the material and the need to keep it alive for audiences. The current TheatreWorks production totters toward each side of the slope, but manages to remain erect through to the final curtain.

Prince, Sondheim, and librettist Hugh Wheeler found their inspiration in a rare comedy from Ingmar Bergman, *Smiles of a Summer Night*, and most of the returned inspiration comes, not surprisingly, from Sondheim. Yes, the score contains "Send in the Clowns," Sondheim's only pop hit, but the theatrical joy now comes in continuing to uncover new facets in all the words and music for the 1973 show.

Sex is the subject on everyone's mind in *Night Music*, as guests caught in complicated webs of relationships are thrown together for a weekend at a country estate. At the center of the swirl is Desiree Armfeldt, a famous actress in Sweden at the start of the 20th century, whose vagabond life is littered with lovers, one of whom unknowingly helped produce a 13-year-old daughter.

Charlotte Cornwell, last seen at TheatreWorks as Maria Callas in *Master Class*, is probably too mature to be playing Desiree; and her appearance doesn't match the exultant descriptions of her. But Cornwell does possess a strong stage presence and comic instincts, and her appearances benefit the production.

As Fredrik Egerman, a middle-aged widower with a teen bride and a history with Desiree, Allen Fitzpatrick offers a strong voice and stolid manner. Lianne Marie Dobbs, also of good voice, brings a hefty hint of clown to the virginal wife. Stanley Bahorek push-

es the envelope of caricature as Fredrik's sex-obsessed guilt-ridden son, but still it is an engaging performance.

Norma Hughes, as Desiree's retired-courtesan mother, doesn't take this grand-dame character any place particularly interesting, but Alice M. Vienneau as the dragon's bitter wife does memorable work, and Margaret Nichols as a sexually liberated servant shines in her sung sexual manifesto.

Director Robert Kelly is an experienced hand at Sondheim, and the expected polish is present. Musical direction by William Liberatore and set design by Tom Langguth are among the other notable assets of a mostly inviting production. ▼

A Little Night Music will run through Nov. 2 at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets are \$20-\$48. Call (650) 903-6000 or go to www.theatreworks.org.



The expected polish in a Sondheim musical is present in this production.

Human behavior

'Thursday' beguiles at the Thick House

by Richard Dodds

In his new play *Thursday*, Adam Bock looks at the little things that are the building blocks of the big things. The smell of burning bacon elevates into a major quality-of-life issue for one character. A glue-gun accident between siblings leads to a tree planted by their mother being angrily chopped down. In the world of *Thursday*, life is a bowl of un-stoned cherries.

Bock is again working with director Kent Nicholson, who previously scored with Bock's *Five Flights* and *Swimming in the Shallows*. And again, there is a fun synergy between words and action, so much so that one can't imagine how the play on the page could come close to communicating the consistently quirky humor seen in the Encore Theatre production.

The former SF playwright has partnered a loose plot about intersecting romantic circles with dialogue that comes in fits and starts. Whole sentences are a rare thing in *Thursday*, and until one hooks into the pecking rhythms, the scarcity of traditionally communicated information might seem frustrating. But well before the short play is over, the style is so merrily established that when characters actually do deliver brief bits of regular stage-speak, the energy begins to evaporate.

The play's most consistent theme is rejection. Pete (Jason Frazier) is a young gay man with absolutely no sense of humor. He's currently grouchy because his ex-boyfriend (David Ryan Smith) has a new boyfriend (Robert Martinez) and won't take him back. And then there's the fragile Marcy (Chloe Broznan), home again after her career as a sitcom star has fizzled. Marcy used to date Pete's lunky brother George (Craig Neibaur), who is now going with high-strung Alison (Cassie Beck), who is jealous of the needy Marcy. Dieseling



David Ryan Smith and Lisa Steindler in Encore Theatre Co.'s *Thursday*

their way into the action on a regular basis is a lesbian couple (Jibz Cameron and Lisa Steindler) with a penchant for troublemaking.

It's not so much these plot threads as Bock's reduced, distilled, and skewed look at human behavior that offers the cohesion that the play does have. When the end comes after a mere 70 minutes, only suggestions of resolution are at hand.

Nicholson's direction has a neo-burlesque imagination, and the cast is in the groove with the novelty of this realism. The set by James Faerron and lighting by Christopher Studley use shapes and colors for a comically recent-nostalgic look (think *Dating Game* set), and the weirdy chirpy music in David Molina's sound design

adds to the twittersy effect. ▼

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'Girls Will Be Girls'

Except when they have prostates

by Brandon Judell

Write a campy screenplay about three eccentric women in one Hollywood house with a filthy swimming pool, have them played by actors in drag, surround them with sexy guys, and you have... Well, you have...

Well, in *Girls Will Be Girls* at least, you've got three drag queens in a misogynistic, ho-hum affair. You see, Evie (Jack Plotnick) is a washed-up, nympho-alcoholic actress with a glass eye, who ran over a family of six, killing four, in her auto. If that wasn't bad enough, she never said she was sorry. And if that wasn't really rotten enough, Evie now spends most of her free time watching her one old movie, *Asteroid*, and making fun of the extremely small penis on her hunky, lawyer son Stevie (Ron Matthews).

Meanwhile, Coco (Clinton Leupp), Evie's masochistic maid and



Varla (Jeffery Roberson), Evie (Jack Plotnick) and Coco (Clinton Leupp)

assistant, wants children, but early on in life, while attending Vassar, she started having abortions because she had a crush on her studly abortionist. So much for her ovaries.

Rounding out the trinity is the constantly noshing, *zafrig* young starlet Varla (Jeffery Roberson), a country girl out to make it big in the big city. That's if Evie doesn't

poison her first! Varla's first job: being a street prostitute for a foreign producer with bad body odor.

All this forced silliness could work if the writing were stronger, the pacing quicker, the rape jokes omitted, and Richard Day's direction more assured.

But so much here isn't even slightly amusing, especially

Clifton Leupp's take as Coco. The guy looks great as a gal, but, unlike the vibrant Charles Busch, he takes himself much too seriously. Busch, both in film and on stage, makes you believe he is a woman while never letting you forget for a second he's in drag. Leupp's unloopy turn is just a dour, static stance in too much make-up.

Plotnick, on the other hand, specifically in the last half-hour, comes into his/her own as Evie, especially in the live infomercial she stages to revitalize her sagging career. Her psychotic ambition

plays marvelously.

Also quite terrific is Ron Matthews, as the guy with the pinky between his legs. His comic timing and playing against type keep making the film seem much better than it is.

As for Varla/Roberson, if you've experienced her live in cabarets or on film, you know the kid has it all: beauty, grace, talent, and poundage. All she needs now is the right vehicle. This isn't it. ▼

Opens Friday.

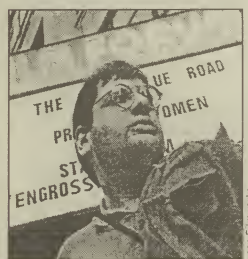
Movie maniacs

by David Lamble

Meet the Cinemaniacs: five normal-looking New Yorkers who, as depicted

in a new film playing October 17-20 at the Red Vic, devote as much of their lives as they can to seeing as many movies as they can, in a city where that can mean a whole lot of movies. *Cinemania*, from the filmmaking duo of Angela Christlieb and Stephen Kijak, takes a stab at forming a kind of social/sexual theory of our culture's movie madness.

Virtually every review of *Cinemania* contains a confession from the critic that, but for a twist of fate, that could be him up there making Jack Angstreich's tortured confession: "The reason my sex life is such a gargantuan failure is its failure to live up to its cinematic models. It's not enough to make love to Rita Hayworth, you'd have to make love to her in black-and-white."



Cinemania's Jack Angstreich

Roberta Hill is a spunky retired mail-carrier in her early 60s who confesses to a lack of impulse control. During one Gotham heat spell, she took off her blouse and watched the movie in her bra. Another time she was so enraged that a staff member at the Museum of Modern Art had torn her ticket that she started to strangle the woman and was banned from future MoMA screenings.

Harvey Schwartz has memorized the running time of every movie he's ever seen. A 50-year-old bachelor who shares an apartment with his mother in the Bronx, Harvey maintains a pristine collection of original soundtrack recordings, despite not owning a record player.

Eric Chaddbourne nurtures love affairs with Audrey Hepburn and Ginger Rogers, notes that Hepburn's death affected him more than the passing of any relative, and claims to have seen his favorite film, *Ruggles of Red Gap*, more than 20 times.

Bill Heidbreder confesses to liking films that "would be classified as feminine by most people. I don't like action films [but prefer] relationship films, stories for

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DANCE

Putting the rush in Russian

Sizing up Kirov Ballet star dancer Igor Zelensky

by Stephanie von Buchau

The Kirov Ballet last visited the Bay Area a dozen years ago, but their star male dancer, Igor Zelensky, was here in 1996, partnering Joanna Berman in a San Francisco Ballet *Swan Lake*. Poor Joanna, you'll remember, was constantly inflicted with partners who were injured, spacey or just plain unsuitable. When a scheduled swain took a dive, Helgi Tomasson snatched Zelensky from New York, where he was guesting with American Ballet Theater.

He is a superb partner and vibrant actor, and for the first time in ages, Berman, not having to worry about being dropped on her head, was free to dance and emote. I know I loved every minute of the blond hunk, whom I described at the time as "prime Russian plowboy." I never suspected that Zelensky would also excel in the sinuous Orientalisms of Mikhail Fokine's *Sheherazade*.

The Kirov Ballet programs seen last week at Zellerbach Hall featured an evening each of choreography by St. Petersburg's two glorious sons, Fokine and George Balanchine. I had to miss Balanchine's *Jewels*, but the Fokine program, consisting of *Chopiniana*, *Sheherazade* and the full-length *Firebird*, was a meal and a half.

We know *Chopiniana*, of course, as *Les Sylphides* (not *La Sylphide*, which is in the SFB repertory). This is a purely classical abstraction, set to Chopin piano pieces orchestrated by Glazunov. It was made originally for the Kirov (then called the Mariinsky) in 1908. In the original cast were (read it and weep) Pavlova, Karsavina and Nijinsky. It goes without saying that this flowing, lyrical, anti-virtuosos piece is still danced with supreme stylistic purity by Kirov soloists and corps de ballet.

However lovely and historical



The Kirov's Igor Zelensky (here, in *Diamonds*) raises our blood pressure.

Chopiniana may be, however, it does not raise your blood pressure like Fokine's *Sheherazade*, which employs the entire Rimsky Korsakov tone poem. Valery Gergiev, the international superstar conductor who heads the Mariinsky Theater, conducted the opening-night performance in Berkeley. Apparently it was much better than the viscous, lumpy, out-of-tune one I heard, led by Mikhail Agrest. Not even Balanchine would have suggested "close your eyes and listen to the music."

Love slave

On the other hand, I can't imagine why anyone would want to close their eyes when Zelensky was dancing the Golden Slave. In *Sheherazade* (the French spelling), the Shah (Vladimir Ponomarev) goes hunting to test the faithfulness of his favorite wife, Zobeide (Tatiana Tkachenko). While he's gone, the wives persuade the Chief Eunuch (Roman Skripkin) to open the slave quarters. Zobeide and the Golden Slave (Zelensky) fall in lust and are discovered by the returning Shah, who has

everybody killed. He forgives Zobeide but, when shown the body of the Golden Slave, she stabs herself.

The piece starts slowly, lots of mime and strolling about, but becomes progressively orgiastic. Fokine can suggest extreme eroticism without vulgarity. There are no bumps and grinds, no crotch shots, not even much fondling. But the Slave is crazed in his desire and athleticism, with Zelensky up to every split kick, every barrel turn, gobbling up huge expanses of space as he circles the stage. His pale, powerful body entwined with the tiny Tkachenko's dark, feminine curves is a sight Cecil B. deMille would have enjoyed.

Yes, *Sheherazade* is kitsch, but of a high, romantic quality, movieish in its visual aspects (the reproduction of Leon Bakst's Diaghilev decor is excellent), extremely musical in the way the waves of dances build to a sensational climax, quite thrilling so that you find yourself gasping for breath when the killing starts. And daring. I can imagine that all

that mimed sex and death on stage in Paris in 1910 brought the Ballets Russes not a little disapprobation. Disapprobate all you like; could we have the Kirov and Igor Zelensky back soon? ▼

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Barbara (Sharon Lockwood) goes undercover in minimum-wage jobs.

The wages are thin

'Nickel and Dime'd' at Brava Theatre

by Richard Dodds

To hear a play described as instructive, or even worse, as "good for you," could ensure that there will be no stampede at the box office. But *Nickel and Dime'd*, while having an educational mission, manages to sustain interest over and beyond its three acts by offering eye-opening information illuminated with specifically personal stories.

The subject is the minimum wage, and whether or not a single person with no dependents can eke out a minimum life with one full-time job and, usually, a part-time second. That was the job that magazine journalist Barbara Ehrenreich signed on for, and her failure to thrive in several cities became the subject of the best-selling book *Nickel and Dime'd: On (Not) Getting by in America*.

It doesn't seem material that lends easily to dramatization, but Joan Holden, a former playwright for the SF Mime Troupe, has achieved a reasonable balance between reportage, comedy and

drama. While you can't call *Nickel and Dime'd* exciting theater, its details always hold interest.

The main dramatic arc in the play is provided by the narrator's emotional unraveling as she faces daily humiliations in various jobs and small support from a boyfriend back home. "How deep is the corrosive effect of humiliation?" she asks after a day sorting clothes at a WalMart, an environment where "autism is a definite plus."

Sharon Lockwood, another Mime Troupe alum, created the role of Barbara in the play's premiere last year in Seattle and Los Angeles, and is performing it again for the first Bay Area production (now at the Brava Theatre Center). Lockwood possesses a kind of everywoman demeanor that serves the character in her undercover mode, yet she still suggests the eye-rolling frustrations and volatile anger of an upscale outsider having to deal with the basics of a working-class lifestyle.

There are also occasional bouts of guilt from Barbara for deceiving the people she wants to honor through documentation.

The endurance and general kindness of her co-workers provide most of the heart of the story, and a versatile ensemble of five performs all the other characters. Director Dan Chumley, yet another Mime Troupe, has smoothly staged the multi-scene tale on a set of sliding panels.

There is a brief "breakout" in which the audience is asked questions by the cast on the subject of housecleaning laborers. At this past Sunday's matinee, the few who spoke up were paying their housecleaners \$25 an hour.

Ultimately, the message is more important than the specific theatrics of *Nickel and Dime'd*, and it's a message that comes through. Near the end, when Barbara tells us that low-wage workers are society's biggest philanthropists, we are well-primed to believe. ▼

Nickel and Dime'd will run through Nov. 9 at the Brava Theatre Center. Tickets are \$14-\$32. Call 647-2822 or go to www.brava.org.

Motion-Lab

◀ previous page

along, accompanying for the classes. Motion-Lab, their five-year-old "research and performance laboratory," is the result. Their latest effort, *As Above, So Below*, will run at ODC Theater two weekends, October 16-25. Every edge-dwelling dancer and dance-lover in town will be there.

"I long for losing myself in joy," Hermesdorf said in a recent interview, practically dancing in her chair. "Can I just swim in it?"

"I watch a lot of people mov-

ing around," Mathias said, sitting alongside Hermesdorf at the kitchen table of her Mission District apartment, where they finish each other's thoughts, and ask each other questions. "Kathleen's movement is different, it's an energetic thing. I'm watching Kathleen's dance, and I'm saying, 'I love it!'"

"His music inspires me like nothing else," she replied.

Mathias considers himself a rhythm-maker before anything else. He moved to the Bay Area to study North Indian percussion, after beginning with cello, choir, musical theater and trap drums in Chicago, where he was improvising at 9. Mathias also creates for the band LiveHuman. Made-up of Mathias, a bassist and a DJ, and improvisation-based, they've been called "sonic renegades."

As Mathias recalled it, the first thing Hermesdorf said when they met in Contraband in '95 was, "You're going to dance with me, and we're going to save the world."

Hermesdorf laughed. "I was younger then," she said. "We were young and crazy, and it was an ecstatic time. Our work was born out of the end of that time."

"Albert became my new teacher. He got me out of eight-

counts," she said, referring to the typical musical phrasing used by Western composers and choreographers. "Now I never have counts."

When they create for Motion-Lab, whether it's a solo for Hermesdorf, a group piece, or a work that Mathias will perform, they call it "kinetic and sonic alchemy."

"We're leaving and arriving at the same time," she said, describing her solo, "Wanderlust," and life in general. "You never end up where you expect." Both she and Mathias take to the road like many San Francisco artists, finding money, audiences and support teaching and performing around the country and the world.

"Dance is my favorite game," said Hermesdorf.

"The world is so fast," said Mathias. "People are starved for stillness."

"Starved for repetition."

"They need to be fed." ▼

Motion-Lab performs *As Above, So Below* at ODC Theater, Thurs.-Sat., Oct. 16-25 at 8 p.m. Tickets, (415) 863-9834 or www.odctheater.org.



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Control issues

SFMOMA's 'Reprocessing Information'

by Michael McDonagh

It doesn't take much to convince this writer that we're really smack-dab in the middle of the 19th century. Just consider MSNBC's *Countdown to War*, with its sanitized images designed to boost patriotism, or the media's selling of the staged rescue of Pvt. Jessica, and you'd think we're inside a 19th-century history painting. These paintings always managed to make the bad look good, and let the ruling classes come out smelling like roses. These are a few meditations occasioned by the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art's provocative new show *Reprocessing Information*, which defuses, if only for the time it takes to see it, the media's controlling power.

The Bay Area collective Ant Farm is represented by *Media Burns* (1975), a 23-minute video which is a sort of precursor to the mockumentary genre pioneered

by Christopher Guest in films like *Waiting for Guffman* (1991). It's fun and slyly didactic, too. The broadcast media is invited to take part in a fully-staged stunt: the crashing of a souped-up '59 Cadillac into a bank of TVs at the Cow Palace on Independence Day, 1975. Reporters turn up in droves, and a miraculously still-alive JFK (Doug Hall) arrives with two Secret Servicemen in an open-air limo. He jumps out and delivers a speech full of Kennedy's high-minded rhetorical bluster. It's as trenchant as Noam Chomsky's attacks on media control, but far more funny. The subsequent car crash looks anti-climactic.

Bay Area artist Anthony Disenza's video *November 2000* (2002) takes the banal and turns it into something strangely beautiful. Culled from hours of channel-surfed TV images of the 2000 "selection," it holds up a mirror to our troubled time. A steady stream of highly-manipulated im-

ages speed by on two screens: one a conventional rectangle, the other a slanted one, with a perspectival vanishing point. It's like an ultra-abstract and far faster version of Reggio's film *Nagoyqat-si* (2002), which is itself a critique of the media and how we unthinkingly absorb its images. Disenza's piece is as oddly seductive and disturbing as Reggio's, and its strobe effects and constant hum are purposefully disorienting.

Bank shots

Paris-based Pierre Huyghe's *The Third Memory* (1999) deconstructs John Woytowicz's August 22, 1972 New York bank robbery. The bizarre heist, whose live coverage pre-empted Nixon's Republican Convention appearance, was Woytowicz's attempt to fund his male (and married) lover's sex change, and it marks the first time a real bank robbery was ever broadcast live. Huyghe's split-screen video pits Sidney Lumet's classic film on the subject, *Dog*



Ant Farm's *Media Burns* (1975): '59 Caddy crashes into a bank of TVs.

Day Afternoon (1975), against a studio-shot reconstruction of things the picture left out or changed. It stars its real-life "hero," Woytowicz, who's armed with an accent thicker than his shotgun. Huyghe's piece questions both the truth of the event and our mediated response to it. Did its live filming really make it realer than real, or was that just as manipulated and filtered as anything else we experience? Huyghe leaves the question open. Any artist worth his salt knows that

ambiguity lurks everywhere. What seems to be fixed and knowable is just the reverse.

Though this show may not pack 'em in like that bankroller Chagall, it deserves to be seen. Why? Because it asks the sorts of questions every intelligent and aware person should be asking now. ▼

Through Feb. 8 at SFMOMA, 151 3rd St. Info: (415) 357-4000 or www.sfmoma.org.

Backstage

◀ Arts cover

year, was too sick with cancer to consider traveling to see it. "In time, I think he would have come," Drake said. "He did see *Larry Kramer* in New York and saw it again when we shot it as a movie in Baltimore. I cried when he came because he never showed up for me in so many ways."

Growing up in Baltimore, Drake was something of a juvenile star of community theater. "That's where I put all the gay sissy-boy energies," he said. "I thought I'd become a Joel Grey or Tommy Tune."

It didn't turn out that way after he arrived in New York at age 20. "I was too busy drinking and drugging to have the discipline to go to dance class," he said. "But I also got cast in plays right away as gay characters, so suddenly my identity as a gay man and my identity as a performer shifted. I stopped going to those open calls for *La Cage aux Folles*."

At age 23, he decided to get sober. "My motivation was that my roommate was going to kick me out of the apartment," Drake said. "It was New York. It was about real estate."

Some years later, he found it unexpectedly hard to play the alcoholic Michael, the central character in *The Boys in the Band*, when Mart Crowley's play was revived in New York. "I understood what Michael's going through," Drake said. "I could be a mean drunk, so I completely understood that, and I wanted to bring that empathy to him. It was very difficult to relive that for six months of my life."

After Drake returns to New York, he and his new boyfriend plan to move in together, a romantic first for the 40-year-old performer. "I've really not been a coupling person, and it took me awhile to open myself up. But he was dancing on a bar, and I couldn't say no."

Ticket information for *Son of Dracula* is available at 861-8972 or www.nctcsf.org.

Ball gowns

Before he won a screenwriting Oscar for *American Beauty* and next page ►

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OPENS HALLOWEEN, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31 EXCLUSIVELY AT LOEWS METREON

Barber of Seville

◀ Arts cover

Because composers didn't expect full attention all the time, there is a lot of filler, padding and just plain dull spots in these operas. Since we insist on sitting silently in the dark for the whole thing, is it any wonder that stage directors today feel they have to do something to keep our interest? At least I am assuming that is the rationale behind the current SFO *Barber of Seville*, an incessantly bright, busy, buffo jape that is thoroughly entertaining, but only minimally operatic.

One could easily remove the orchestra and have the singers speak their lines and get almost exactly the same reaction we had at the War Memorial Tuesday a week ago, when the new Johannes Schaal/Hans Dieter Schaal production of *Barber* debuted, delighting the audience with its off-color jokes, giddy shtick and kinetic acting. There was also a fine debut in the pit by Hungarian conductor Stefan Soltesz, but who noticed?

Some of the visual enchantments included Schaal's two-story, Mediterranean Art Deco house, lighted in blinding white by Paul Pyant. It pirouetted, slid, revolved and all but tangoed throughout the night. It was decorated by a few props, including a life-sized anatomical display in



Paul Plishka (Bartolo), Helene Schneiderman (Rosina), Nathan Gunn (Figaro), Yann Beuron (Count Almaviva)

Dr. Bartolo's study, and by Yan Tax's eclectic costumes. No Nazi uniforms, but WWI trench gear, including spiked Bismarck helmets, and two gorgeous dresses — in electric blue and chili-pepper red — for Rosina.

Scooter pie

Figaro made his entrance on a scooter carrying a muffled passenger whom he shaved (including the legs) and then turned into a cute bimbo in a lime-green

dress. At one point, the marauding *polizei* stripped the scooter and stole the parts; at another, the servant Ambrogio (Ricardo Herrera) put it all back together. Of course, characters were singing (or trying to sing) during these amusing antics, but I rather doubt if anybody heard them (or cared).

If this had been a great cast of international Rossinians, I would have been livid. They would have been, too; no singer enjoys being upstaged by a servant hilariously dusting the private parts of a statue. But this was a classic Pamela Rosenberg cast: good-looking, nimble, with only serviceable voices, including another super-

annuated male (Paul Plishka) like *Flute's* Paata Burchuladze. (As my Nana used to comment, "There is no accounting for taste, said the old lady as she kissed the cow.") There were no "star singers" like Juan Diego Florez, and no star singing.

Nathan Gunn (Figaro) looks like the Oakland Athletics' star pitcher, Barry Zito, right down to the spiky hairdo. He's funny, charming, sexy, but his baritone is small, dull and colorless. He seems more suited to Broadway's Billy Bigelow than to the upscale rigors of Rossini. Ditto tenor Yann Beuron, who looked pretty good with his shirt off and contributed

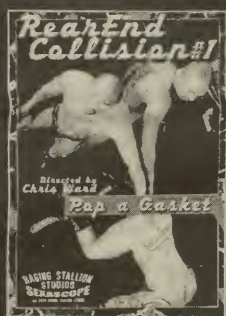
ably to the generalized chaos. His disguise as the music teacher appeared to be a caricature of Brahms; much was made of Rosina bumping into his false stomach. His upper register is sweet, and he doesn't oversing, but there is not much there, and his coloratura is a scandal.

Helene Schneiderman (Rosina) doesn't have a voice to die for, either, but it is big and musical, and she represents the good side of Rosenberg's taste in singers: an intense, focused, specific performer who wins you over and keeps your loyalty through integrity, vulnerability and willingness to perform the director's pratfalls while maintaining her dignity.

Schneiderman adds a dose of emotional reality to Rosina's roudades. Schaal, who seems unsentimental and harshly comic in his interpretation, softened up to present Rosina with a stuffed kangaroo toy that characterized the lonely child about to become a woman. She lugged it around, put a bib on it, fed it a croissant and hugged it when she was feeling low. I think when she is finally united with Almaviva the kanga is forgotten — that would make psychological sense — but to tell the truth, there was so much going on that I lost track of the toy in the final scene.

The bottom line is that you can attend this *Barbiere* with the assurance that you will not be outraged or insulted. You'll laugh a lot; and if you don't know the music too well, don't worry, for the creative team does not allow it to distract you. ▼

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Backstage

◀ page 31

then created HBO's *Six Feet Under*. Alan Ball was writing plays. One of those plays, *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress*, is being revived locally by the Actors Anonymous Theatre Company.

Written in 1993, the comedy is set in a bedroom upstairs from a wedding reception, where the bridesmaids reflect on their own lives while admitting their disdain for the seemingly perfect bride they are there to honor.

In its review of a New York production earlier this year, *Newsday* described *Five Women* as "a femmefest in the tradition of *Steel Magnolias* and *The Women*. But

it's saved from itself by Ball's mastery of his craft. With stinging comic sensibility, he creates flesh-and-blood characters who talk like real people."

Javier Galito-Cava is directing the SF production, opening Oct. 23 at Venue 9. Call 289-2000 or go to www.venue9.com for more info.

'Chocolate' kisses

Its style is being promoted as "sitcom," but the characters aren't likely to turn up soon on ABC's Friday night schedule. *Worse than Chocolate*, a new play opening this week at Theatre Rhino, is based on playwright-performer Jaeson Post's tragic-comic adventures as a misfit lesbian in a soul-deadening law firm. Post, who has

appeared before on Rhino's stage as Lisa Post, is currently undergoing transition from female to male.

Post plays one of the romantically underachieving and chronically morale-less office workers who variously mock management, invoke Hollywood trivia, and look for queer love. Jeffrey Hartgraves, another of the performers, is directing the production with a cast that also includes Veronica Klaus, Liz Ryan, Leon Accord, and Isaac Brantner.

Worse than Chocolate will run through Nov. 8. Call 861-5079 or go to www.therhino.org. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.

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MEGA phone

Fearful symmetries

Pianist Yundi Li tackles Liszt on disc

by Tim Pfaff

The only real difference between musical prodigies of the past and those of today are the agents who anoint them; today's well-oiled PR machine, with its unprecedented means of getting the word out; and the press' now virtually complete acquiescence to the machine's rule. The time for worry about the independence of the arts press is past. Critics now routinely grovel before publicists to receive their daily helpings of product, access, and spin. A quiet, obsequious Requiem is in order.

These not-quite-random thoughts follow my tenth listening to the astounding new Yundi Li CD of Liszt piano music (DG), which includes the composer's legendary Sonata. Liszt, of course, was one of the 19th century's undisputed virtuosos, himself a pianist of such superhuman powers that, like the violinist Paganini, he was often said to be diabolical (always good for the box office). In an age with no lack of remarkable young musicians, Yundi may be the 21st century's first bona fide new genius of the piano. So, at least, this CD proclaims.

The machine has thrown more of its weight behind his Chinese

countryman Lang Lang, an effort that may be backfiring. One of the wise old men of the piano recently called Lang Lang the J-Lo of the piano, a quip that made the circuit in hours, and some conductors he has played with discreetly noted that his interpretations may yet need seasoning. Bay Area audiences can decide for themselves next April, when the two play recitals for San Francisco Performances (Lang Lang, April 17 at Herbst Theatre; Yundi Li, April 18 at Florence Gould Theatre). Yundi is down for the Liszt Sonata, which has become a focal point of his recitals. Few 20-year-olds have any right to approach the work, but Yundi's deep sympathy with the piece — even more than his ability to play its most harrowingly difficult passages — makes his recording of the work the one to have. Before committing that view to paper, I revisited my five other preferred recordings of the work.

What they all share is a view of this half-hour, single-movement work as an infinitely inflected working out of magnificently well-integrated themes in a long arc of sound and fury, signifying a great deal indeed. Yundi is as good as any of them at articulating the work as a single gesture of monstrous elaboration. Where he stands out is in the fine-grained

characterization he gives each of the work's sections, and in his ability to unify them with no grinding of gears.

Tender vittles

One lingering impression is of the uncommon delicacy he imparts to the work's tender, yearning passages. But they're not what lovers of this Sonata are really in it for, and Yundi's execution of its more fearful symmetries is as compelling. He claims to see the work as the image of a human life, from birth to death, and he never stints on expression of its primal struggles.

As amazing are the hushed chords and single-note figures that begin and end the piece, which seem to rise imperceptibly out of, then sink back into cavernous silence. Add to all these the bold yet utterly natural rubato that infuses his playing, and a picture of untrammelled artistic spontaneity emerges.

There are some extreme sonorities: hammering, granitic basses and piercing, glassy trebles. Over the course of the interpretation (and in the five shorter Liszt works that round out the CD) Yundi makes it clear that these are artistic decisions, not lapses in technique. Although they do rattle the nerves, comparison with



Not since Ivo Pogorelich has so gifted a pianist as Yundi Li appeared.

the same passages by pianists other than Alfred Brendel (who has recorded one of the most sensitive accounts of the work) reveal even "uglier" sounds from them.

All the above qualities resurface in Yundi's spellbinding playing of "La Campanella," "Liebeslied ('Widmung')," "Liebestraum No.3," the *Rigoletto* Paraphrase, and, particularly, the credibility-defying "Tarantella." Not since Ivo Pogorelich has so physically and artistically gifted a pianist appeared. Sadly, by the time Pogorelich, still young, got around to the Liszt Sonata, the in-

dividuality of his musicianship was already slipping into eccentricity and the seeming deliberate misshaping of scores. Yundi is still trenchantly music's servant.

To see where it all came from, check out the Maxell DVD of his performances at the 14th International Chopin Competition in 2000, which Yundi won. His consummate technique and masterful interpretive powers are there to see as well as hear. While you're at it, check out the accompanying two-audio-CD set of Yundi at the competition, which includes even more items. Then see you in April. ▼

Celebrating Khatchaturian

Centennial of great Armenian composer

by Jason Serinus

For most of his life, the music of Armenian composer Aram Khatchaturian (1903-78) was greeted with acclaim. If his oeuvre has since fallen from favor, new CD releases and a slew of Centennial performances offer opportunities to reassess his output.

Much of Khatchaturian's success lay in the way he drew upon Armenian folk melodies and rhythms to create energetic, frequently celebratory compositions that struck a deep chord in the hearts of Eastern European listen-

ers. Ukrainian, Georgian, Zerbajani, and Turkmenistani harmonies were also incorporated into his writing, making him a Soviet favorite. His oft-played *Sabre Dance* derives from his score to *Gayaneh* (1942), a four-act ballet about crisis and reconstruction on a collective Soviet farm. In Stanley Kubrick's *2001*, an adagio from this score mournfully accompanies the crew of *Discovery* as they head off to Jupiter.

A late bloomer, Khatchaturian first graduated from the Moscow Conservatory at age 30. By then, his early trio had attracted the attention of Prokofiev, who arranged a performance of the

work in Paris. In 1934, his First Symphony received the first of many performances. His reputation was further enhanced by his Piano Concerto (1937), which was promoted as the Soviet Union's first "national" concerto, and the Violin Concerto (1940) written for and championed by the great David Oistrakh.

Yet, in 1948, despite serving as an executive of the Union of Soviet Composers and penning both the Armenian National Anthem and such party-glorifying works as the *Song of Stalin* and *Funeral Ode in Memory of Vladimir Ilych Lenin*, Khatchaturian found him-

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Yes, sir!

SoCal man is new International Leather Sir

by Mister Marcus

The leather tribe came out full force last weekend in St. Petersburg, Florida for the 2003 edition of the International Leather Sir and boy competition and when it was all over, Mike Russell, representing the Southern California Region, was named 2003 International Leather Sir, and Rick Mansfield (also known as Titusboy), representing the Great Lakes Region, was named 2003 International Leather boy. Rick was also the recipient of the Golden Whip Award, voted by all the Sirs and the boys in the competition.

The first runner-up Sir was Chris Reynolds (Southwest Region), and the first runner-up boy was the feisty Andy Fischman representing the Northeast Region. The results represent a winning circle that includes contestants from coast to coast.

It was a pleasure to judge this contest with Dale Breunig, Jose Gutierrez, Dave Rhodes, Lenny Broberg, Bill Stadt, Karen McGee, and Peter Theodoropoulos. In all the categories, ten Sirs and twelve boys went through the obligatory interviews, leather image, speech, and jock segments along with exciting, entertaining, innovative and humorous fantasies that had the audience howling.

Numerous other events took place throughout the Suncoast Resort complex, including boot blacking, the outdoor barber, pool parties and private parties galore.

The weather was agreeable and the party spirit prevailed all weekend and late into the night. Numerous leather title holders were on hand and the mix was amiable, fun and filled with lots of networking. A well-equipped dungeon was available to weekend package holders, and local Italian, Chinese and Mexican outlets were delivering meals all day and late into the night.

The volunteers, board members, stage crew and other people with "official" duties did a great job. No light or sound glitches occurred, and George Hester's stage crew proved to be the epitome of efficiency in getting the stage set up for speech, physique and fantasy segments.

The master of ceremonies,



Great Lakes Leather boy "Boy Titus" (kneeling) and Southern California Sir Mike Russell were chosen International Leather Sir and boy in St. Petersburg, Florida last Saturday, October 11.

Frank Nowicki, did a superb job and everyone seemed satisfied with the outcome. It was a great weekend that also raised almost \$1,500 for interpreters for the hearing impaired for next year's edition — thanks to a fervent plea from former Int'l. Mr. Deaf Leather Spo. The basket auction raised almost \$10,000 for the winners' travel fund. The attendees were generous in their support of both efforts.

Mike Moran of Boston explained why there was no representation this year from the New England Region. Apparently a bar owner in Boston reneged on his support and the issue remains unresolved for the moment. Mike assured the audience that next year's edition will include the New England area in force.

The Northern California Regional sponsors, David and

Gregg, were awarded a Region of the Year plaque, attesting to their hard work, diligence, creativity and ability to successfully produce the contest for their region in 90 days. Bravo to both!

Mr. San Francisco Leather 2004 Julian Marshburn made his first official appearance at an out-of-town leather event and was well received. The rumor you may have heard that he is moving to Toronto is just that — a rumor!

Meanwhile...

The race toward IML 2004 continues unabated. In Hamburg, Germany last week, Saad Hasson from Sweden was chosen Mr. Leather Europe 2003 and will compete in Chicago next May. Almost 1,000 leather men attended the event in Hamburg, and the Iraqi-born Saad Hasson was the winner. The 1st runner-up was Olaf Olafsson from Reykjavik, Iceland and the 2nd runner-up

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend, October 17-19

Mr. and Ms. New Mexico Leather will be chosen during Black Leather Weekend in Albuquerque, New Mexico. For more info, email to Leather-BearCO@aol.com.

T.U.L.S.A. presents Mr. Oklahoma Leather 2003 Contest and it's their 15th anniversary. For info click on www.tulsaleather.com or call 918-582-0303.

Friday, October 17

Exiles of SF present "Novice Night" at the Women's Building, for all contemplating the leather/bdsm scene. Experts in the top and bottom categories. Doors open 1930; program at 2000.

Saturday, October 18

Everybody's favorite leather woman, Vick Germany, celebrates her 47th with a gathering in the patio of the Eagle Tavern from Noon to 1600. No raffles, no auctions, no gifts, but you could donate something for the Women's Cancer Fund.

Mr. and Ms. Gay San Francisco Contest tonight at the Swedish-American Hall. Reception at 1800,

contest & show at 1900. Tickets are \$10 at the door.

Wednesday, October 22

Leather Buddies gather tonight at 933 Harrison for the monthly uniform/leather/latex/Levi's soiree. Absolutely NO cologne or sneakers. Strict dress code and even stricter ban on under-arm deodorants! Info: 777-HEAD.

Leather/Levi Weekend 2004 meeting in the meeting room at 922 Harrison for all who are interested in helping put on next year's great event.

Saturday, October 25

ACLC presents the "Submarine Ball & USO Show" at the Turf Club with a cocktail reception and buffet at 1830, show and auction at 2000. The Ball starts at 2200.

Sunday, October 26

"Mama" will pin her 500th member of the family at Daddy's from 1600 to 2000 with a \$7 beer/soda bust and entertainment. The new member's name will not be revealed until this event.

POLKSTRASSE

Let's be gay!

Mr. & Miss Gay SF pageant on Saturday

by Sweet Lips

Come join the search for the new Mr. & Miss Gay SF! As absolutely everyone knows, since it's the biggest news in town, The Imperial Council of San Francisco, Inc. will be presenting the 31st annual Mr. & Miss Gay San Francisco 2004 Pageant this Saturday, Oct. 18, at the Swedish American Hall, 2174 Market St. (above Cafe Du Nord). The festivities will begin with a Cocktail Reception at 6 p.m. honoring outstanding 2003 titleholders Lance Brittain and Manley Lennox. It's all being produced by TJ & Sheba, so you know it will be a blast!

The Pageant begins promptly at 7 p.m. The proceeds will go to the Monarchs' Charity Fund, which puts on all sorts of worthy events and helps those in need. Admission to the event will be \$20

at the door.

As a special treat following the pageant, Club RV's fabulous Til Friday girls will perform a special Saturday Midnight Show in honor of original cast member Manley Lennox (or Miss Gay AA, as they affectionately call her), the outgoing Miss Gay SF 2003, who with Mr. Gay SF 2003 Lance Brittain had a wonderful year representing the city with their titles.

Speaking of Club RV, on Oct. 17 (the anniversary of the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake) the Til Friday gals will be whooping it up with an earth-shaking musical revue! Don't miss it! It's also your chance to win a free pass to the preview of *Die Mommie Die*.

Happy birthday to the Club

RV's forever young Mikey McColigan on Oct. 23, sharing his birthday with the forever old Jay "Ethyl" Noonan, who once upon a time was the BAR's theatre critic — now he's just a critic!

The 49er Football Fetes at Club RV are still going strong — for 15 years! They now happen on Sunday afternoons, hosted by David Kapp, who will be celebrating his

birthday on football Sunday, Nov.

1. What a kick!

Last but not least, a major shift has occurred in the local bar scene! After 12 years at the Cinch Saloon, our dear friend "Woody" is now working for Richard and Mario at the Metro City Bar. Be sure to pay him a visit, and tell him Lips sent you! ▼

Cocktail Hour

Khatchaturian

◀ page 33

self condemned. Lumped together with Shostakovich and Prokofiev, he was officially denounced by the Central Committee of the Community Party for "formalist" compositional tendencies.

Crushed by the Party's condemnation, he issued an official apology. As acts of penance, he wrote Stalin-pleasing scores for the films *Lenin* and *The Battle of Stalingrad*. He even agreed to be sent back to Armenia to be reeducated.

After Stalin's death in 1953, Khatchaturian denounced the Committee's judgment and was named People's Artist of the Soviet Union. Shortly thereafter, he completed his best-known work, the score to the ballet *Spartacus*, later revised and arranged into several orchestral suites.

French twist

Several new recordings celebrate the Khatchaturian Centennial. A lovely Koch recital, *Khatchaturian Sonata and Dances*, features violinist Hideo Udagawa and pianist Boris Berezovsky in mostly world-premiere recordings.



ings. Their rendition of the early Dance No. 1 (1925) was made possible after the Khatchaturian family supplied the violinist with the original handwritten manuscript. The longest work on the program, the beautiful Sonata for Violin and Piano (1932), winningly melds Armenian sensibility with French impressionism. Seven violin/piano arrangements of orchestral soundfests strip away surface splash to reveal their harmonic underpinnings. Most fetching are the energetic *Dance of Eghna* and heartfelt *Grande Adagio* from *Spartacus*, and the catchy *Nuneh Variation* and *Sabre Dance* from *Gayaneh*.

Udagawa, a protégé of Nathan Milstein, plays with piquant, occasionally resiny tone. One wishes for more bite and sweetness, but

her tang does underscore Khatchaturian's folksiness. Berezovsky provides ideally sensitive support.



Flautist Emmanuel Pahud joins David Zinman and the Tonhalle-Orchester Zürich for Khatchaturian's Flute Concerto. Ibert's Flute Concerto and piece for solo flute round out the EMI disc. The Concerto, Jean-Pierre Rampal's transcription of the Violin Concerto of 1940 complete with a new cadenza, came about after Khatchaturian offered the work to Rampal. Pahud supplies requisite virtuosity, but his exceedingly breathy tone on all but the highest notes fails to satisfy. Questionable acoustic perspective and edgy strings also lessen pleasure.



Constantine Orbelian, an Armenian champion of Khatchaturian's work who will conduct Khatchaturian Centennial Concerts in New Haven and Carnegie Hall, is about to release a Delos disc, unavailable at presstime, that includes music from *Spartacus*, the 1948 *Ode in Memory of Lenin* and 1956 *Ode to Joy*.

These discs confirm Khatchaturian's facility for creating catchy, sometimes repetitive tunes that overflow with exuberance. Despite the beauty of his melodies, Khatchaturian sometimes seems a noisy post-adolescent, creating a lot of fuss without plumbing the depths. Others will be too busy tapping their toes to care. ▼

Cinemaniamia

◀ page 28

women." Bill saves money by sneaking food into the theaters. A scene in which he lards a slab of peanut-butter the size of a hubcap onto a hunk of bread may turn you off to peanut-butter sandwiches forever.

Early in the film, Harvey notes dismissively that "film buffs do not socialize." The genius of *Cinemaniamia* is that the filmmakers get the cinemaniacs to acknowledge

each other as people and discuss needs not fulfilled at the movies. A touching and telling scene takes place in Bill's apartment as Jack reads Bill's stab at composing an ad that will hopefully snag him a female webdate. Looking up from his computer, the nerdy Bill gives the portly Jack a wink and says, "Too bad you're not a female, or I could marry you." Jack gives a sly smile to the camera as he replies, "If there was more homosexuality in the world of cinemaphiles, there would be more happiness in that world, I think." ▼

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

was Thomas Schoch from Zurich, Switzerland. Mr. Hasson fled Iraq during the war in 1991 and now lives in Stockholm, Sweden. In his acceptance speech, he stated: "It is still impossible to be gay in Iraq. In a Muslim society, one is forced to get married and have children — there is no freedom of choice."

It will be interesting to see how the community reacts to Mr. Hasson. Meanwhile, before November 1st arrives, almost a half-dozen more men will join the list of aspirants for the IML 2004 title. I was told by "informed sources" that the IML 2004 judging panel would be announced at a special news conference during the Mid-Atlantic Leather weekend in Washington, D.C. in January 2004. Stay tuned. ▼

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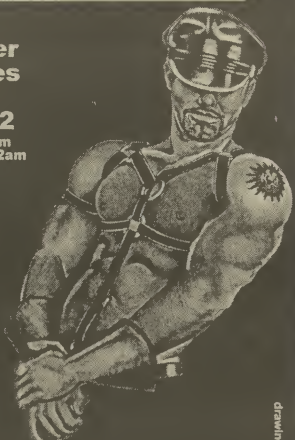
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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon



Leslie Seiter and Rachel Shaw

Tiny teacups

The latest dance sensation at 848 Community Space (848 Divisadero in the Fillmore District) came last weekend in the form of two petite dancers performing a powerful full-length piece entitled "Such Tiny Danger," a title that hints at the seeming fragility of the two dancers, and of their main props: many tiny tea cups.

Leslie Seiter and Rachel Shaw dance together as swimmingly as dolphins, slipping and sliding sensuously around one another, but the quality of their dance is less water element than mineral: the glass of the many teacups that create the piece's brittleness. The duo themselves are all fire, full of immense life. The dance overall is air — all lightness of being.

Even before the dancers emerge to begin their duet, the audience knows the teacups will play an integral role in the work. On the back wall, a video projection shows hands shuffling three teacups in an endless game of hide and seek. Beautifully rendered, sometimes the images were of black cups against white background, or white against black, and the shuffling sound became part of a rich sound tapestry. In the aisle, suspended from the ceiling by invisible fish line, a plane of teacups bobbed gently at waist height, creating an obstacle to be passed through.

Which is what Seiter and Shaw did to start their piece, daintily swimming through the dangling cups, the tinkle of their striking one another part of the sound pattern. Then it was on to shuffling cups on a table top, selfishly at first, each greedy to grab the cups. But then somehow they're in sync, working in unison instead of apart, and the dance begins in earnest.

Seiter and Shaw work through a relationship as tight as that of the forlorn lovers in *Heavenly Creatures*, one of Peter Jackson's early films, before he went on to *Lord of the Rings* legend. In that film, two young women develop a bond so deep, they're willing to murder to save their love. In "Such Tiny Danger," two young women dance the delicate ballet of a relationship all around cups, ever aware of their breakability, yet everything balances out, nothing gets chipped, nothing cracks — at least for the moment. ▼

For information about upcoming performances at 848 Community Space, visit www.848.com



"Oak, 8.9 Megatons, Enewetak Atoll, 1958," part of Michael Light's *100 Suns* opening at Hosfelt Gallery. See Saturday.

Fri 17

'Dykes on Mykes' @ Club Savoy, Santa Clara

Bay Area Lesbian Musicians and Starrose Productions present "Dykes on Mykes — Women's Music Showcase Extravaganza!" Honorary dykes welcome. Come enjoy sweet lavender music by red-hot performers while supporting local Women's Music! Three or more amazing performances by up-and-coming female musicians. Tasty drink specials and DJ dancing after the performance. This month enjoy the rhythmic stylings of Something Crystal (www.somethingcrystal.com), the fabulous vocal quartet Out on a Cliff (www.outonacoff.com), and the eclectic grooves of the Druid Sisters Tea Party. No cover (\$5-\$10 suggested donation). 8-10pm. Club Savoy, 3546 Flora Vista Ave., Santa Clara. Info: 408-244-6909; www.clubsavoy.com

'Duelling Bankheads' @ The Center

The Harvey Milk Institute presents "Duelling Bankheads," starring New Yorkers Clark Render and David Iku. When they put on black-widow drag and light up a couple of "goddamn filtered Kents," they become the performance pair known as the Duelling Bankheads, who made their debut ten years ago at NYC's Jackie 60 and have since written and performed scores of shows. Writer/performer/DJ Render is a founding member of the Black Lips Performance Cult in NYC; his film appearances include *Desperately Seeking Susan* and *New York Nights*. Stage/film/TV actor Iku has worked with the New York Theater Workshop, Manhattan Class Company and more. His film include *Risk*, *Blue Steel*, *Go-dass*, *Night Journey*, and *Liquid Sky*. His TV credits include *Spin City* and Comedy Central's *Premium Blend*. \$20. 8pm (7pm reception). Also on Sat., Oct. 18. 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Tix/info: 865-5633; www.harveymilk.org

'Bringing Light to the Darkness' @ SomArts Cultural Center

Benefit for KPFA and SomArts Days of the Dead Educational Programming. Live music, other entertainment and speakers broadcast live on KPFA. In the gallery: "Bringing Light to the Darkness." Explore traditional allars and sophisticated, complex art installations with spiritual and critical content celebrating life and focusing on social issues. One of the art pieces in "Bringing Light" is a tribute to Gwen Araujo, a 17-year-old transgender youth who was killed in Oct. 2003, by men who were angry and hateful. C. J. Grossman's moving piece lists the names of all those killed in anti-gay violence. This 6th annual Days of the Dead exhibit is being dedicated by curator Rene Yanez to the death of the California Arts Council. Yanez

has curated Days of the Dead exhibits for 30 consecutive years. \$10. 7-10 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. The display, *Bringing Light to the Darkness*, runs from Saturday, October 11 through Sunday, November 2 at SomArts Imperial Center, 934 Brannan Street (between 8th and 9th Streets), noon to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. There is no cost for admission. Info: 863-1414 ext. 104 or go to www.somarts.org

BATS™ Improv

@ Bayfront Theater All-Star Improv Benefit Show for BATS™ with a fabulous line-up including Matthew Martin (dancer, singer, actor, impersonator), Tonal Chaos (music improv), 3 For All ("no rules" improvisers), Ricky Right (from London's "Rick & Ruby Show"), The Mirth Brokers, William Hall & Carla Hatley (as Mr. Majik), & The Lovely Miss Daria, your emcees, and Joshua Raoul Brody (musical accomplice). \$12. 8pm. Bayfront Theater, Building B, 3rd Floor, Fort Mason Center (Bay & Laguna). Tix/info: 474-8935; www.improv.org

'Loll-i-Pop'

@ Club Galia "Loll-i-Pop," a Queer Film Benefit Party for Another Day, a film about gender. Featuring burlesque, drag, comedy, hip hop, and passion dancing. Hosted by Jar Rednour, Rusty Hips and Julia Query. Performances by Burlesque-esque, Harlem Shake, Diamond Daggers, The Passion Dance Troupe, and Katastrope, plus DJs Sam, Shanestar & Juree. Raffle prizes for best lollipop-oriented costume: think strawberry shortcake, cherry blast, chocolate-banana. Sponsored by: Film Arts Foundation (STAND grant); Vixen Creations & SIR Video. \$7-10. 9pm. Club Galia, 2565 Mission St. Info/volunteer: 206-9392.

'Self Portraits'

@ John Pence Gallery Opening reception: "Self Portraits," a fascinating exhibition of self-portraits by many of the art world's leading realist/figurative painters. The selection opens views into the lives of 37 artists, giving art lovers an open-studio tour as never before. See the artists at work, or pondering their work; the interior atmospheres that shape their perspectives. Free. 6-8pm. Exhibition runs thru Nov. 15. 750 Post St. Info: 441-1138; www.johnpence.com

'Turning Ten'

@ Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Opening Night Party: Yerba Buena Center for the Arts celebrates its 10th Anniversary with a spectacular multidisciplinary arts festival and three-week series of commemorative events. "Turning Ten: An Anniversary CenterFest" features two exhibitions: "Ten by Twenty," with works by established and emerging artists, curated by YBCA's Chief Curator Renny Pritikin and Visual Arts Curator René de Guzman; and "Four in a Row," with works by Guillermo Gómez-Peña, Matmos,

Claudia Tennyson and Bill Daniel. Party to the sounds of The Punk Rock Orchestra, a 40-odd piece orchestra/string ensemble who play punk rock cover tunes; and collaborate with the Punk Rock Ballet. Plus avant-rock group Tarentel performs with filmmaker Paul Clipson, and Tommy Guerrero & Jet Black Crayon jam with a surprise guest. \$10 adv; \$12 door; members free. 8-11pm. YBCA Galleries & Forum, 701 Mission St. Tix/info: 978-ARTS (2787); www.YerbaBuenaArts.org

Sat 18

Susan Leal's 'Raising Hell' @ El Rio

"Raising Hell for One of Our Own," a benefit party for Susan Leal, "San Francisco's soon-to-be first lesbian mayor!" Bands, DJs, dancing, grub on the grill. Special guest MC's: DJ Black (Tight); DJ Edaj (Mango); DJ Loca Lavado (Tight, Mango, OutLoudSF). Bands: Orquesta D'Soul; Sistas in the Pit. Party runs 4-8pm (BBQ 5-7pm). \$7-\$25 sliding donation (NOTAFLO). El Rio, 3158 Mission St. Info/volunteer: 252-3630; www.susanleal.com

'Mr. & Miss Gay SF Pageant' @ Swedish American Hall

The Imperial Council of San Francisco, Inc. presents the 31st "Mr. & Miss Gay San Francisco 2004 Pageant." The festivities will begin with a Cocktail Reception at 6pm honoring outstanding 2003 titleholders Lance Brittain & Manley Lennox. The Pageant begins promptly at 7pm. Come join the search for the new Mr. & Miss Gay SF. Proceeds go to the Monarchs Charity Fund. Produced by TJ & Sheba. Admission \$20 at door. Swedish American Hall, 2174 Market St. (above Cafe Du Nord). Info: www.imperialcouncilsf.org

Michael Light's '100 Suns' @ Hosfelt Gallery

Opening reception/book signing: "Michael Light: 100 Suns," an exhibition of explosive imagery. 100 Suns captures the light and intensity of many of the 1,149 nuclear test explosions conducted by the United States between 1945 and 1992. Apart from their terrifying power, the atmospheric and ocean tests created awesome storms of light. As he did with *Full Moon*, his internationally acclaimed photo-book and related exhibits world-wide, in 100 Suns Light delved into long-neglected archives to cull and curate magnificent imagery to tell a story. The visuals amaze even as they disturb. Who ever thought destruction could be so... sublime? Free. 3-5pm. Exhibit runs thru Nov. 26. Hosfelt Gallery, 430 Clementina. Info: 495-5454; hosfeltgallery.com



"Personal Baggage," 2003, oil on panel, by Jacob A. Pfeiffer, part of "Self Portraits" at the John Pence Gallery. See Friday.



Michael Blue's spell-binding imagery is part of "Six on Sex," the open studio of erotic portraits at the Mark I. Chester studio. See Saturday.

'SanFranBananas' @ 'The Whitney'

Opening: "SanFranBananas," color and humor in art at the people's gallery, "The Whitney," i.e. The Whitney Young Cultural Center Mansion, a gallery/civic treasure hosting outsider artists, graffitiers, neo-popsters, Mission School artist types, small press cartoonists, tattooists and others hip to the zeitgeist. Curated by Rik Livingston, who assembled last year's successful "Urban Folk Pop" exhibition. Says Livingston: "We're nicknamed 'The Whitney' but we ain't no blue-nose museum and we don't have no Nu Yawka art-lude." Witness photographs, mixed media, kinetic art, and fun & fruity installations. Free (donations welcome to support KID's Art Program). Oct. 18-Nov. 15 by apt; reception Nov. 8, 5-9pm. 1101 Masonic (btwn Haight & Page). Info/appointments: 346-8323; rik@acer-access.com

Open studio:

'Six on Sex'

Open Studio: "Six on Sex," featuring six SF underground sexual art photographers united for a steamy exhibition at the Mark I. Chester studio South of Market. Featuring works by Chester, Michael Rosen, Charles Gatewood, Phyllis Christopher, Michael Blue and David Steinberg, all of whom will be present to greet viewers. These cutting-edge photographers leave nothing to the imagination as they present intensive bodies of work that explore sex and the sexual underground from very different perspectives. 11am-6pm, Sat. & Sun., Oct. 18 & 19. 1229 Folsom St. Info: 621-6294; mchester.best.vwh.net/sos.html

Other Cinema

@ ATA Gallery

Other Cinema presents "Amped-Up Images," a program of live multiple-projection performance

pieces, augmented with electronic sound and picture enlargement. Featuring the Overdub Club, consisting of filmmakers Thad Povey & Alfonso Alvarez with musicians Lucio Menegon (Rev. Screaming Fingers) and Mark De Gil Antoni (Soul Coughing). Plus hot projections by Raymond Salvatore Hsaron. \$5. 8pm doors. 992 Valencia St. Info: 824-3890.

Spectrum's 'Cirque de la Lune' @ Marin Osher JCC, San Rafael

Join Spectrum for their 21st Annual Gala, "Cirque de la Lune: An Evening of Magic and Friends!" Featuring ringmaster extraordinaire, Broadway and soap star Jeff Trachta. Under the Big Top: spinning platters by DJ Noel (The Box, Mecca), "The Greatest Silent Auction on Earth" (see preview at www.spectrummarin.org). Complimentary wines by Good Earth Natural Foods and Whole Foods Market, festive fare by Fete Catering, and the Cosmo Bar by Smirnoff in the Highwire Lounge — and much more! 7pm-12 midnight. Marin Osher Jewish Community Center, 200 North San Pedro Road, San Rafael. Tix/info: 415-457-1115 x333.

'Black Box Breakout' @ Venue 9

Footloose presents "Black Box Breakout," the latest in a series of performances benefiting Venue 9's move to a better space. Help aid Footloose! Proceeds will fund multiple projects currently underway for the transition as Venue 9 searches for a new cultural center with a larger stage and modular seating. Featuring Eric Copper (dance), Big bottom Burlesque (plus size burlesque), Kitten on the Keys (burlesque with piano and stuffed kitten), and the Burlesque Esque trio (sexy songs & playful moves). \$10-\$20 sliding. 8pm. 252 9th St. (btwn Folsom & Howard). Tix/info: 289-2000; www.venue9.com

Michael Moore

@ Greek Theatre, UC Berkeley

The Associated Students of the University of California, in association with SUPERB Productions, presents Academy Award-Winning Director (Bowling for Columbine), Bestselling Author (*Stupid White Men*; *Dude, Where's My Country?*) Moore will take to the podium to offer students and others a down-to-earth, candid view of the American economic scene and national politics. Expect a turbo-charged presentation of dead-on commentary and riotous insight. \$5 & \$10 UCB students; \$15 & \$30 gen'l public. 1pm. Hearst Greek Theatre, UC Berkeley, Gayley Rd. at Stadium Rim Way. Tix: 510-642-9988; www.calperfs.berkeley.edu

Sun 19

SF Prime Times & Matthew S. Bajko @ Unitarian Church

The San Francisco Prime Times (the former G40-Club) hosts Matthew S. Bajko, Assistant News Editor for the Bay Area Re-

porter, "who wrote that wonderful article about our club 'Club Helps Connect: Men in Prime of Their Lives,' August 21, 2003), reports on topics ranging from local, state and national political campaigns to HIV prevention and AIDS funding. He'll offer his views of the political scene. A Bay Area resident for five and a half years, formerly he covered Orinda and Oakland's city hall. Originally from Connecticut, he and his partner now live in Noe Valley." Free, 2-4pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 1187 Franklin (at Geary). Info: 552-1997.

Victorian House Tour

The Victorian Alliance of San Francisco presents its Annual House Tour of interiors of restored historic homes in SF's Panhandle area. The homes open for inspection embody the carriage trade's refinement and gentility. They range from SF Suck style to Italianate, Queen Anne and Renaissance Palazzo. They were built between 1887 and 1895, all in an eight-block span. One mansion was once a convent, another a movie set. Some of the private homes are in their nearly original state; others have been meticulously restored; at least one has functioning gas light fixtures. Specialized restoration artisans will be available throughout the tour. \$25 (\$20 students/62 or older). Tour runs 1-5pm. Tix: call 826-1437 in advance; or go to ticket booth at 940 Page St. near Divisadero on day of tour. Info: www.victorianalliance.org

Mon 20

Rick Gerharter exhibit @ Harvey Milk Branch Library

Selections from the James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center's recent historic purchase of Rick Gerharter's photographic portfolio of queer life in San Francisco are on exhibit at the Harvey Milk Memorial Branch of the San Francisco Public Library through Wednesday, October 29. The exhibit includes black and white photos from the early 1990's era of queer activism, visibility and AIDS caregiving in San Francisco. Hours are Monday, 12-6pm; Tuesday, 10am-9pm; Wednesday, 12-9pm; Thursday, 10am-6pm; Friday & Saturday, 1-6pm. 3555 16th Street at Market St. in the Castro District. Info: Harvey Milk/Eureka Valley Branch Library, 554-9445.

Michael Moore @ SFSU

In person: A.S. Performing Arts, in conjunction with Academic Affairs and the SFSU Bookstore, presents Michael Moore (see Saturday listing for details). \$5 students; \$10 gen'l. 7pm. Main Gym, SF State University, 19th at Holloway Avenues. Info: 338-2444. Tix: 800-594-8499; asfsu.org.

'25 — and counting' @ Istituto Italiano di Cultura

Celebrate the 25th anniversary of the inauguration of the Istituto Italiano di Cultura (Italian Cultural Institute) with a feast of words, food and music. Listen to Italian poems read by Marco Baricelli of the American Conservatory Theater, and by dramatist Beatrice Basso, accompanied by brilliant guitarist Peppe d'Agostino. This event inaugurates a week-long celebration of the Italian language, including free intro lessons. Free. 6:30pm. 425 Washington St. Info/RSVP: 788-7142, ext. 18.

Tue 21

'Let's Get Real'

@ Herbst Theatre

World premiere screening: Let's Get Real, a new documentary exposing the prejudice behind name-calling and bullying by local Academy Award-winning filmmaker Debra Chasnoff, produced by Chasnoff, Helen S. Cohen and Kate Sully. Told entirely in the words of young people themselves, Let's Get Real features not only kids who are targeted, but the youth to do the bullying, and the allies who intervene when they witness harassment. Issues such as racial tensions, sexual harassment, and anti-gay name-calling are brought into the open. The National Education Association estimates some 160,000 children miss school every day due to fear of attack or intimidation by other students. \$25 gen'l admission. Doors open 6:30pm; sponsor reception 8:45pm. Herbst Theatre,



"Discovery of the Creative Process," 2003, acrylic on panel, by Timothy Cummings, part of "Picture Show," his solo exhibition at Catharine Clark Gallery (49 Geary St.). Cummings is a prominent figure in the queer arts underground. Info: 399-1439; www.cclarkgallery.com

401 Van Ness Ave. Tix: City Box Office, 392-4400. Info/sponsor tix: 355-9988; www.respectforall.org

Larkin St. Benefit @ The Plush Room

Special Benefit performance on behalf of Larkin Street Youth Services. Sam Harris previews his "Best of SAM" show (opening tomorrow night), with a portion of the proceeds going to a worthy nonprofit agency that strives to create a continuum of services to help move youth beyond the street. The agency nurtures potential, promotes dignity, and supports bold steps by all. 7pm doors; 8pm show. The York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. (btwn Leavenworth & Hyde). Info: www.larkinstreetyouth.org

Wed 22

Sam Harris @ The Plush Room

In concert: Singer/songwriter, Broadway/film/TV actor, writer/producer Sam Harris takes the stage for "The Best of SAM," his one-man theatrical show, which has received glowing reviews since its premiere in LA this spring. Harris exploded into the public eye as the Grand Champion of the Star Search television show in its premier season. His first album on the road to international fame was released in 1984; he has since played to sold-out audiences at Carnegie Hall, Universal Amphitheater in LA, and London's West End, starred in many Broadway productions (among them Jesus Christ Superstar, Cabaret, and Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat), and penned the LA-produced musicals Hurry! Hurry! Hollywood! — which he directed — and Hard Copy, receiving myriad awards. \$30 plus two-drink minimum. Wed-Sat, 8pm, thru Nov. 8. York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. (btwn Leavenworth & Hyde). Tix: 885-2800.

'Wicked Wednesday' @ Cosmopolitan Restaurant

Calling all ghosts, ghouls, goblins, witches, vampires and other wicked boys and girls! The Richmond/Ermet AIDS Foundation, in conjunction with the Cosmopolitan Restaurant, present Wicked Wednesday: a masquerade party. Prizes awarded for most creative costume, most creative mask, and most wicked costume. Wicked entertainment by the outrageously wicked "Kitten on the Keys"/Suzanne Ramsey and recent LA Ovation Award nominee, Connie Champagne appearing as Judy Garland. Donna Sachet will be overseeing the festivities as Mistress of the (Dark) Ceremonies. Devilish hors d'oeuvres, well-aged wine and decadent desserts provided compliments of the Cosmopolitan. Other wicked brews and libations available for purchase at the bar. Devil's minions will be selling raffle tickets for wicked prizes. Masks available at door for those arriving without costumes. \$25 adv.; \$35 door. 7-11pm. A special fix price dinner is also available from 5:30 to 7pm, by reservation only, for \$55 (includes admission to after party). Call for tickets: 415-273-1620.

Tom Ammiano @ The Center

Mayoral candidate Tom Ammiano greets his legions of admirers at a "Pre Victory Celebration" put on by his campaign. Come share the winning spirit! \$35-\$500 sliding donation. 6-8pm. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (near Octavia). Info: 665-5417; www.ammianoformayor.com

'Yin Yang Ball' @ Blue Room Gallery

The divine Juanita MORE! hosts a great event and spins tunes with DJ Derek B. Join them for a fundraiser celebrating 19 years of the Quan Yin Healing Arts Center, a nonprofit treatment, education, and research center that provides traditional Chinese medicine, acupuncture, herbal medicine, and massage. The party is a worthy cause and should be a lot of fun! Complimentary food, beer and wine. Sliding scale tickets from \$30 up. 6:30-10pm. Blue Room Gallery, 2331 Mission (btwn 19th and 20th). Info: 957-4425; www.qyainhealingarts.com

Liszt Birthday Gala @ Victorian Englander House

American Liszt Society — San Francisco Chapter presents "Liszt Birthday Gala" featuring pianists Annette DiMedio, Daniel Glover, William Wellborn, Seth Montfort, Brent Smith and Elliott Dunlap. Built in 1880, the four-story, 7,500-square-foot Victorian Englander House is illuminated with original gasoliers, including one used as a prop in the 1942 classic film "Gaslight." View the extensive collection of museum-quality American furniture from 1865 through 1895. Performances are played on either a new, Yamaha 7'-6" concert grand (with Disklavier) or a 1928 Steinway. \$10-\$20. 7, 8:15, & 9:30pm. Victorian Englander House, 807 Franklin St. (at Turk). Info: 362-6080; hometown.aol.com/englander/

Thu 23

Shanti's 'To Russia with Love' @ Julia Morgan Ballroom

Shanti 29th Annual Awards Gala: "To Russia with Love" a benefit to help Shanti provide services to people living with HIV/AIDS, breast cancer and other life-threatening illnesses. Sample fine caviar, champagne and iced vodka as we celebrate the 29th year of providing services to people in need. Your support for The Shanti 29th Annual Awards Gala "To Russia with Love" will have a tremendous impact on people living with HIV/AIDS, Breast Cancer and other life-threatening illnesses. Honorary Event Chair: Irina & Victor N. Lizun, Consulate General to Russia. Inspirational Service Award: Jaime Caban, HIV Peer Support Volunteer Heather Johnville, Breast Cancer Peer Support Volunteer. Investment in the Community Award: The Dun and Bradstreet Corporation, Major Corporate Donor Janet and Clint Reilly. 6:00 PM - Reception 6:30 PM - Buffet and Entertainment 7:00 PM - Awards Ceremony. Julia Morgan Ballroom Mer-

chants Exchange Building 465 California Street San Francisco. \$200 per person (sponsorship levels available, \$500 to \$15,000). To register, contact Doren Martin Phone: (415) 674-4764, or email Doren Martin E-mail: dmartin@shanti.org

'The Ebony Mama Herself' & other docs @ Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

Fresh Eyes: New Artists at Cinematheque screens documentary filmmaker Zeon D.V. Kitchiner's The Ebony Mama Herself, featuring behind-the-scenes and on-stage footage of Tia Bloomingdale, a professional transgender female impersonator/drag performer. The video examines relationships between the transgender and GLB communities by exploring such issues as acceptance and rejection while focusing on the personal experience of a transgender African-American individual. Shot on location in SF. The screening is part of "California Stories: New Docs by Emerging Videomakers," a program of short docs by young, politically and digitally savvy artists including: community (Elena Fiske, Esther Galbraith, Alexis Petru), (in)visibility (Sara Gambin, Marisa Hill, Lea Jones), Ashby (Tim Adams, Michelle Allport, Loie Vindish-Benites), The Ebony Mama Herself (Zeon Kitchiner, Marianne Laleuf, Viola Foregger), Migrant Motherhood (Clare Bakota, Nicole Lucchesi), Some Reasons For Living (Jesse Cortez, Harjant Gill) and Behind the Checkpoint (Suzanne La, Danielle Muldoon). \$7 gen'l; \$4 student, senior, disabled, YBCA member. 7:30pm. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. (at 3rd St). Tix/info: 978-ARTS; www.yerbabuenaarts.org

'Core Country' @ Metronome Ballroom

"Core Country," a gay/lesbian country-western dance party. Everyone welcome. Beginning & intermediate CW & Swing lessons every Thursday. Tonight: Line Dancing with instructors Ron Points and Douglas Mitchell. 8-9pm beginning/intermediate lesson; 9-11pm CW Dance Party w/DJ Steve Carter. \$6 lesson only; \$10 lesson & party. 1830 17th St. (at DeHaro). Info: 252-9000; www.metronomeballroom.com

WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

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Circus maximus

by Glen Helfand

Lives of the Circus Animals by Christopher Bram; William Morrow, \$24.95

The opening chapter of Christopher Bram's new novel about artistic anxieties and familial tensions is set in a psychotherapist's office. A notoriously cranky second-string theater critic for *The New York Times* despairingly tells his shrink that

they call him "the buzzard of Broadway," to which she replies, therapeutically, "And how does that make you feel?" Arts writers and various creative types might feel a distinct sense of identification and amusement in the acknowledgment of the entertaining travails and triumphs of this ego-based business. While the theater reviewer recedes to pivotal supporting-character status, *Lives of the Circus Animals* introduces a whole cast of endearingly neurotic souls bonded by their ambitions in the field of dramatic arts.

But that doesn't mean this is a book that's only for those who love theatre with a capital T. The book is a highly entertaining emotional potboiler that, while trafficking in melodramatic tropes, rings true with warmth and issues we all can identify with. Bram offers astute observations of sensitive Manhattanites both straight and gay in the midst of creative crises, which brings us back to the therapist's office. It seems the aforementioned critic's harsh review of a rising gay playwright's latest work caused it to close in the first week, sending the writer, Caleb Doyle, into a spiraling, self-deprecating depression, writer's block, and general malaise. He also happens to see the same shrink to help him through it.

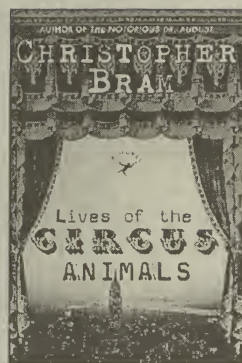
Such tangential social connections abound, linking the characters together like a close network of friends. Caleb turns to phone sex, which leads him to un-

wittingly get off with a famously out actor, for whom Caleb's sister works as a personal assistant, who happens to be dating an aspiring director, who is at work on a grade school production of *Showboat* featuring the critic's daughter, as well as directing a gimmicky theater piece co-starring Caleb's hunky ex, Toby.

Dream world

Bram, whose novel *Father of Frankenstein* was the basis for the film *Gods and Monsters*, has a great sense of popular narrative. The *Circus* story flows with a fitting theatrical panache. It's a soap opera roundelay in which the characters' emotional interactions build and converge at an action-packed 40th birthday party. Along the way there are backstage adventures, strip-club encounters, disastrous dress rehearsals, fumbled sex, familial tensions, and, as previously mentioned, therapy sessions. (One of the latter reveals that the book's title comes from a Yeats poem.) Bram also punctuates and amplifies his rich, comedic narrative with dream sequences that mirror his characters' fears and desires, a device that works nicely.

So do the thinly veiled real-life models for the characters. The *Gods and Monsters* connection extends to the stately actor character Henry Lewse, who must face the idea of selling out or staying true to his Shakespearean roots. Lewse equals Ian McKellan, and he even appears on the Rosie O'



Donnell show. Bram also gets some inspiration from our very own Kiki and Herb, who here become Leopold and Lois — Bram doesn't always get high scores for naming characters — a performance-art cabaret act that gets a drubbing when the critic attends their show, which is depicted as cynical and sour, as well as revealing a gap between generations of theatergoers.

The main as well as supporting characters converge in ways that rely on the theatrical convention of screwball comedy coincidence, but in the small world of urban subculture, we all know there's a sizable possibility that your next one-night-stand will have some crazy, comically uncomfortable connection to your ex. Which is to say that Bram has a mastery of mainstream fiction that playfully mirrors reality with page-turning panache. And for a book that's bound to be a Palm Springs poolside staple, that's a very good thing. ▼

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I, I, I

by Robert Julian

That's Why They're in Cages, People! by Joel Perry; Alyson, \$14.95

Joel Perry is funny. The bald, overweight, pierced, leather-clad 40something Perry is a gay humorist, raconteur, and essayist whose work recalls Mark Twain blown through *Boys in the Band*. His current collection of essays, *That's Why They're in Cages, People!*, contains a series of quick takes on a variety of subjects, from S/M to Hollywood to religion. But in this case, the whole turns out to be less than the sum of its parts.

The problem with *Cages, People!* is almost unavoidable. Whenever you run 58 essays in sequence by

the same author, even the most talented voice becomes monotonous. It's what editors often refer to as an "I" problem. After a few dozen entries, Perry's sarcasm can become cloying, and his humor entirely too predictable. The tone of his narrative voice, throughout the book, is absolutely consistent. But a lack of variety in his approach makes it increasingly hard to slog through the individual entries.

There are some amazingly hilarious essays that will make readers laugh out loud. My favorites involve "Debbie Allen dance numbers" in the Academy Award telecasts, and Perry's opening riff on working in a piercing booth at the Long Beach Pride Festival. As a sit-down read, *Cages* may work best if digested in small doses over several weeks. Between readings, the book might rest comfortably in



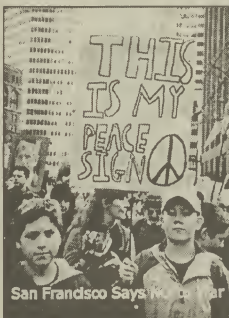
close proximity to a toilet. But unlike many gay authors, whose books should be placed in the toilet, Perry is truly amusing. He has just the right amount of anger to give his work an edge, and enough intelligence to have a point of view worth sharing with others. ▼

Out There

◀ page 26

the Palace of the Legion of Honor; the All-Stars play for free, Thurs., Oct. 23, Noon at Union Square. More coverage to come; info at www.sfbuzz.org.

Pleasures of performance artist John Kelly's opening night in *Shiny Hot Nights* at ODC Theater included Kelly's note-perfect renditions of Joni Mitchell in songs early ("For the Roses") and late ("Night Ride Home"); Brazilian-born composer Zecca Esquivel accompanying and singing backup, as Georgia O'Keeffe on the keys; and the rapturous audience, which included folk-rock goddess Tracy Chapman sitting right behind us — don't stare!



Terry Baum's pics of peace signs

Peace of mind

The accompanying picture is from *This Is My Peace Sign*, San

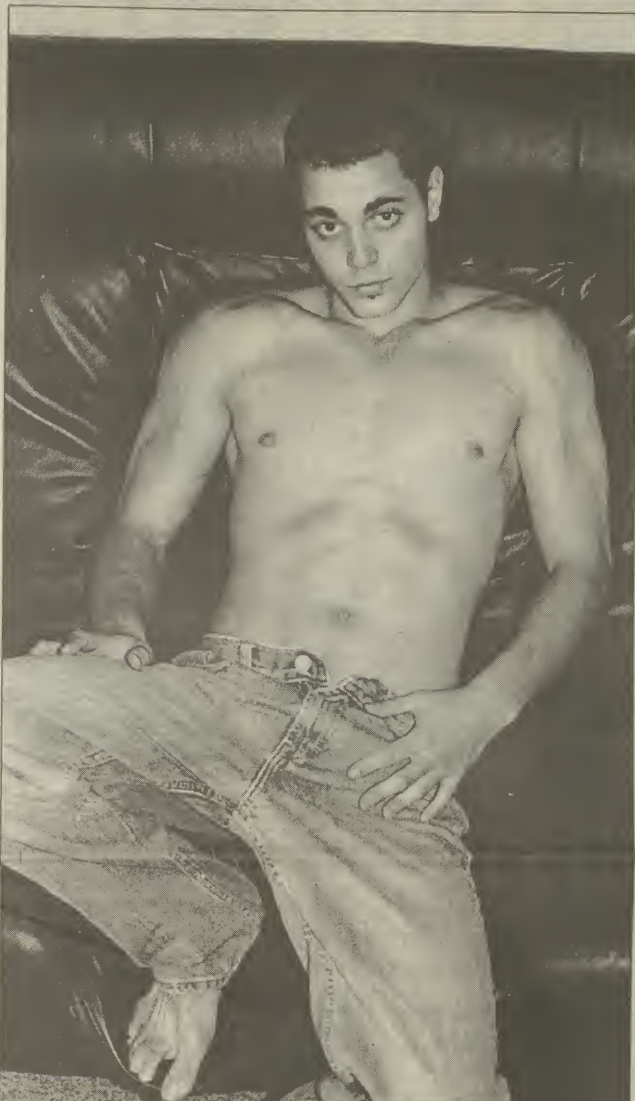
Francisco Says No to War (Lilith), a booklet of photographs taken at antiwar demonstrations in SF between Oct. 2002 and April 2003 by Terry Baum, designed by Baum and Scumbly Koldewyn. The creative spirit behind the homemade signs Baum documents is inspiring. A few of our favorite placards: "Blondes Against Dumb Wars," "How Many Lives Per Gallon?" and "What Would Jesus Bomb?" Info at Lilithbooks@yahoo.com.

On the record

Out There on last week's *Fleet Week* aerial blitzkrieg of the city: It's *Burning Man* for the military set.

OT on the Gropinator seizing Sacramento: At least now he'll stop making movies. ▼

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PARTING GLANCES

"Missed Connections"
Rick, the cock worshipper in Alameda. I live near the lake. We got together and parted. You came and picked me up. Didn't write correct phone #. Let's do it again. ☎ 72811

Guerneville 8/31
You with dark beard. We should have talked. I'm sorry I left. The Rainbow. ☎ 72812

Both Of Us Were Walking....
Eastward on Market near Church, around 6pm. You looked at me when I walked into Ace Hardware and I smiled back. ☎ 72823

Dolores St. Sep. 8 Moonlit Night
You out for a walk. We glanced. You turned and waited for me as I got into my car. I looked back and drove off. Crazy moon. Let's talk. ☎ 72824

TheaterRhino, Sun-Matinee, 9/14
You: BM, front row. Me: WM up steps in back. Our eyes met. We smiled & nodded "hello". You made my day. Can I see you smile again? Pls. call. ☎ 72835

Folsom Gulch Sat 9-27 2:30 PM
You very handsome, dark hair, slim, smooth, uncut young man in left rear booth. Me older man who sucked you. Very nice. Would like to do it again. ☎ 72839

9/20/03 Grupo Hispano
We talked about bathroom waterfall, broken cabinet and lying pool. You said communication is a good way to know someone. I want to communicate with you. ☎ 72840

Badlands After Folsom St Fair
Sorta danced together. Me brown, lit, orange Adidas. You blondish, white shirt, jeans, cute dancer. You said date. Gave my number. May have been wrong or illegible. Still want date! L. ☎ 72849

Sausage Factory Sat 9/27 5:30pm
You flirted and smiled at me several times. I wore a black "Hairspray" t-shirt. You had short hair, wore glasses, and had a tattoo on your neck. Let's talk. ☎ 72850

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

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Husky, heavy, easy going W/M 50, HIV- ISO horny bottom 25-40, HIV- who loves to make love with his mouth for hours. Tits, pits, back, buns, balls, all. Esp like Latinos, Italians. ☎ 72813

Cute Skinny Asian Vers Guy
ISO bi/GWM, prof, clean, 35-45yo, goodlooking, ht/wt prop. Serious only for ltr. Me: prof, loving, caring, affectionate. ☎ 72814

Santa Rosa Native
SWM, 42, 5'10", 175#, red head, ex navy, mobile home owner. Enjoys tennis, chess, talk radio, & drumming. Seeks relationship. ☎ 72815

Dirtyoldman Needs Someone Bad!
Are you bad??? Healthy, happy G.W.Sr. masc. top ISO W. masc. submissive bottom for friendship+sex, companionship+ sex, love+sex? ☎ 72816

Older ISO Yngr. J.O. Buddy
GWM 50's seeks younger GWM 18+ for friend, companion, jo buddy, to go places with, to talk to, spend time with, who likes affection, to cuddle, mutual jo, maybe more. ☎ 72817

Crazy For Blond!!
Brazilian, light skin, 37yrs, 5'7", 145lbs nice body dick a plus. Single, no drugs, clean hygiene. Seeking WM under 50 round butt and lovely. To be mine forever and I will be only for you. ☎ 72843

GWM Couple Seeks Asian Guy
GWM couple, 38/43, seeking special GAM, 30's, for romance and relationship. Enjoy books, music, movies, theatre, dancing, long walks, lazy Sundays, candlelight, cuddling...and great threeway sex! We/you: honest, versatile, HIV-. ☎ 72845

GJM 50 Near Lake Merritt,
Seeking drinking, hanging out buddy. Like films, stage, food, baseball, drinking, etc. Not a sex ad. Age, size, race, looks unimportant. Urgently need male companionship. Most friends are women so need more male perspective in my life. ☎ 72825

Wanted Blond Musc. Educ. Male
Musc. legs a plus. Retired prof. male (White) HIV- ISO very masc. male. You won't be sorry. I assure you. ☎ 72826

"Best Buds"
Masculine, muscular, Italian topman looking for buds to hang with. Dinner, movies, football, politics and travel. Need a vacation? Be masculine and fun. 30-50. ☎ 72836

WLM 48, 6', 165lbs, Dark Hair
I enjoy being with mature men over 60 who like lots of affection & oral pleasure. Husky/heavys, bearded a plus. No gay scene, drugs but smoking, light drink ok. ☎ 72837

Hot Top 40
5'10", 165, bl, bi, bottom, professional, travel, ptownise, seeks younger hot bottom- honest & sincere for ongoing play or more; no messes please, Upper Haight. ☎ 72841

Squirrel Seeking Nuts
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Cute Young European
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Peninsula, South Or East Bay
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SEEKING ADVENTURE

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East Bay Bear!
53, 6', 220lbs., hairy. Looking for regular sex buddy. Into sniffing, licking, sucking, fucking, jo, talking dirty. Hairy+. Not looking for ltr. ☎ 72828

"Naked Role Play"
Lean masculine dominant guy 44 seeks lean guy younger or same age for fantasy play involving you being stripped naked and following orders. No pain or unsafe sex. ☎ 72829

Spank Your Butt
Hot, masculine top, 38, 5'11", 175#, seeks well-built bottom with nice round ass for over-the knee spanking, role-playing and plowing your ass. ☎ 72830

"Big Chubby Men!"
Wanted bi versatile top bear, 43, 5'9", 225, beard, hairy, for weekday lunchtime/ daytime meetings. You are 30-70, 225+, bottom or versatile. We are both HIV-, clean. ☎ 72831

Desires Thick Cock Average/
Masculine guy. Heavy, intense jo, dirty talk, phallic worship, partying buddy desired. Some oral OK. Your place, PM only. Not into toys, videos, groups, anal. Long moderate to heavy partying scenes only. ☎ 72827

Naughty Young Euro Boy
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Dominant, Endowed Gentleman,
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Dark passage

by Robert Julian

Through It Came Bright Colors by Trebor Healey; Harrington Park Press, \$19.95

The junkies and transients of Sixth and Mission Streets provide an unlikely backdrop for a college freshman's gay coming out experience in *Through It Came Bright Colors*. Neill, the protagonist of Trebor Healey's novel, lives in the far East Bay with his parents and younger brother, Peter. He drops out of college in Berkeley to help Peter endure the operations and chemotherapy necessitated by a cancer diagnosis. At one of Peter's medical appointments, Neill has a fateful encounter with another cancer patient, Vince.

Vince lives in a transient hotel, cashing his General Assistance checks to buy drugs, and shoplifting to meet other needs. The virginal Neill is irresistibly drawn to bad-boy Vince, and their ill-fated romance forms the core of Healey's novel. Neill leaves his suburban world behind and starts spending every weekend with the troubled, erratic Vince in San Francisco. Peter ultimately becomes Neill's confessor, but even before his brother dies of cancer, Neill concludes that his own tortured first love affair is doomed to end badly. Neill's triumph is his ability to find light in so much darkness.

Trebor Healey creates two believable worlds — one suburban and one urban — and manages to give life to both through Neill's eyes. The characters are nicely rounded, but the structure of the novel places the author, and the reader, at something of a disadvantage. Healey chooses to tell his story in the first person, from



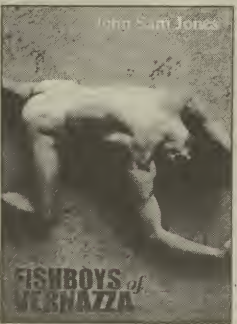
Neill's point of view. This forces every observation through the prism of Neill's perspective. And despite Neill's perspicacity, this type of presentation has inherent limits. One of the problems that arises in *Bright Colors* is a sameness of tone that ultimately makes the work prosaic. Neill is a sweet, sensitive soul, and Healey gives him a cornucopia of metaphors and similes that he uses in telling his story. When these two factors come together, the result can be cloying and self-conscious.

Healey seems to be striving for the compassionate simplicity of works like Capote's *Other Voices*, *Other Rooms* or McCullers' *Member of the Wedding*, but his prose is overwritten. Even the title, *Through It Came Bright Colors*, hints at a poetic pretentiousness and structural convolution that work against the simple, fundamental truths of the novel. This is not to say that Healey lacks talent or that his work should be disregarded. But a shift to the third person or a little less internal monologue from the protagonist would have made *Through It Came Bright Colors* a stronger work. ▼

Stories from Wales

by Robert Julian

Fishboys of Vernazza by John Sam Jones; Parthian/Dufour Editions, \$13.95



Wales, the birthplace of Dylan Thomas and Richard Burton, is not known as a hotbed of gay fiction. But John Sam Jones seems intent on changing this with the American debut of his second collection of short stories, *Fishboys of Vernazza*. The opening story, from which the collection takes its title, and the closing story, "The View from Sasso Fermo," both take place in Italy. But all 10 stories in this collection are told from the point of view of different gay Welsh protagonists.

In the current release, the consistent theme of Jones' writing is home and hearth. Even when traveling the seductive Italian coastline, Jones' Welsh characters are always filtering their experiences through a prism of Welshness. Jones' strong sense of national identity permeates his writing, sometimes lurking in the background and sometimes assuming a position central to the story.

Jones writes with an economy of words, employing a lyrical and evocative prose style that recalls the work of Jeanette Winterston. Two of his most effective entries, "A Particular Passion" and "The Wedding Invitation," involve gay men who come up against the entrenched homophobia of Welsh

culture. The first involves a high school teacher who must teach human sexuality without ever acknowledging his own. And the second story revolves around a gay man whose Jewish, English lover is excluded by his parents from attending his sister's Welsh wedding. Both stories, while exploring themes of national intolerance, still offer hope for reconciliation.

John Sam Jones writes literate gay fiction, and does it well. His stories are sensual without being X-rated, and they involve issues of personal growth and change. Although his questioning characters face their challenges against a Welsh backdrop, like all good writers, Jones arrives at the universal through his exploration of the specific. *Fishboys of Vernazza* reflects a contemporary gay male journey that could take place almost anywhere in the Western world. ▼

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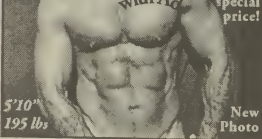
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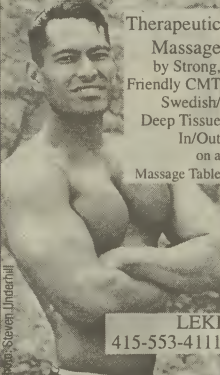
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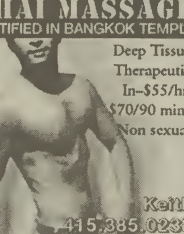
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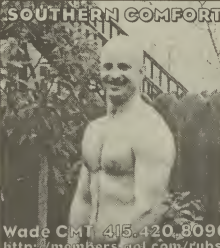
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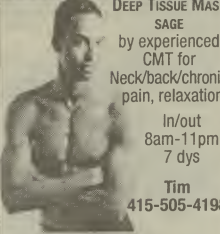
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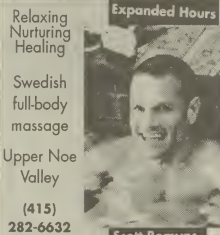
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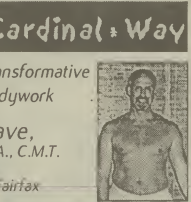
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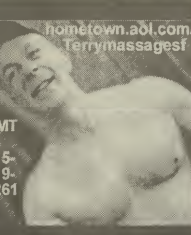
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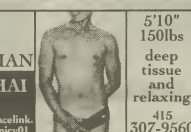
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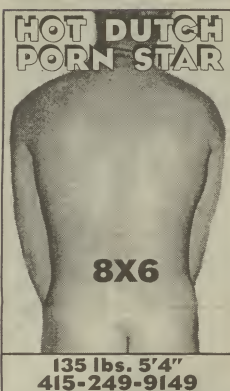
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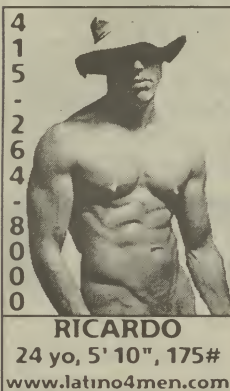
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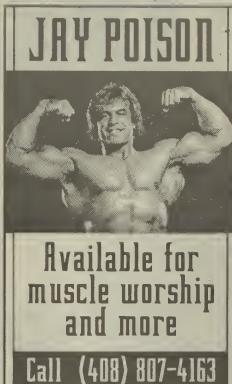
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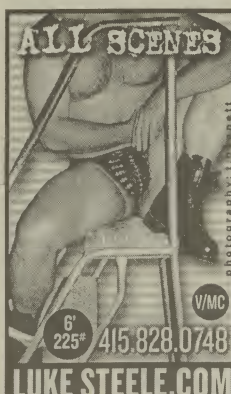
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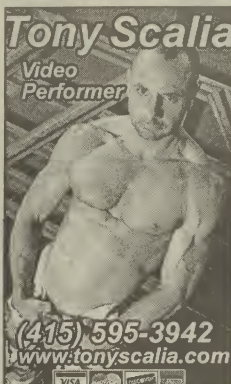
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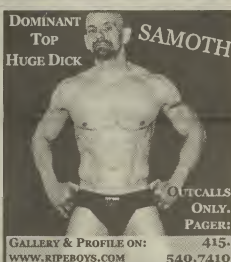


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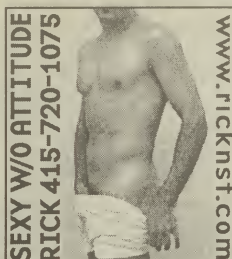
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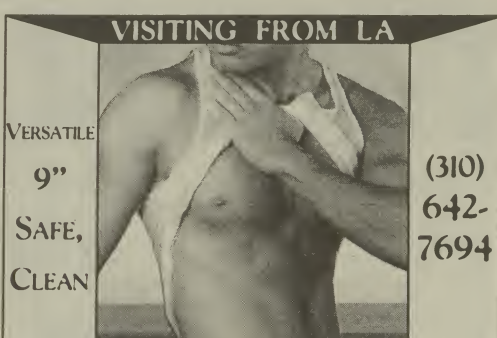
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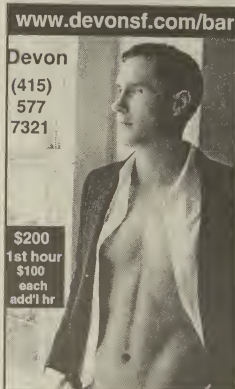


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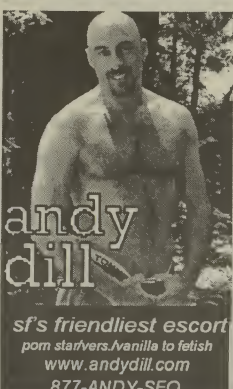
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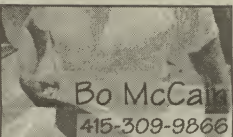
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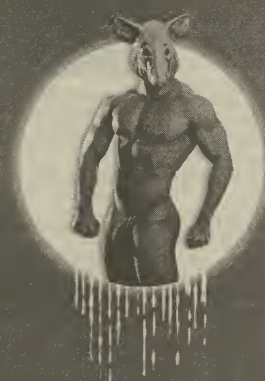
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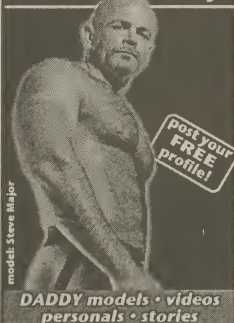
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